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WHAT ARE OUR CHANCES?

Ottawa Senators goalie Andrew Hammond makes save in an April 17 game against the Montreal Canadiens. The Sens are down 3-0 in the Eastern Conference quarter-final, but can they band together for a win Wednesday night? Story, [metroSPORTS](#). PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Watson eyes LRT funding

BUDGET

Distribution of dollars a concern for Ottawa mayor



**Lucy
Scholey**
Metro | Ottawa

New federal dollars for public transit could signal more funding for Ottawa's light rail system.

But while Mayor Jim Watson said he's pleased to see the \$1 billion in annual funding in the 2015 federal budget, he said the news comes as a "cautionary" tale, as it's still unclear how the funds will be distributed.

"If all of a sudden you start spreading that to any transit project across thousands of mu-

nicipalities, that billion dollars gets diluted very, very quickly," he said after the budget announcement on Tuesday.

The 2015 federal budget sets aside \$750 million over two years, starting in 2017-18, plus \$1 billion a year thereafter, for a fund to promote investment in public transit systems.

Watson said he hopes the funds will be set aside for major city transit projects.

Regardless, he said the city will be applying for federal funding for phase two of the light rail transit project this summer (an extension farther east to Place d'Orléans, farther west to Bayshore and Algonquin College and farther south to Riverside South and Bowesville).

Ottawa police are getting \$10 million over five years, as requested.

It's small compared to the \$60.4 million in tighter secur-

ity measures at Parliament Hill. However, Watson said it will help cover the costs of protests, royal visits and other national-scale security measures unique to Ottawa city police.

The federal government is committing another \$1.7 billion to social housing units across the country over the next four years, which Watson applauded, but said this, too, needs more details.

And the budget spells good news for small businesses, according to Ottawa Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Ian Faris, as the small business tax rate will also drop from 11 per cent to nine per cent by 2019.

WITH FILES FROM
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

**MORE BUDGET
COVERAGE ON
PAGES 4, 5 & 10**



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FATALITY

Recovered body is missing boy: Police

Quebec police confirmed that a body pulled from the Ottawa River Monday has been identified as Shawn Lalonde-Laframboise, the 14-year-old boy who went missing April 6 after falling through the ice.

Divers with Sûreté du Québec found the body near the Resolute Forest Products mill at around 4:30 p.m. on Monday.

The teen was out on the thin spring ice with a friend when it cracked and both ended up in the water.

His friend was rescued and hospitalized, but the search for Lalonde-Laframboise lasted for days after the accident and involved water patrols, divers and a canine unit.

Police still don't know why the teens decided to try crossing the ice.

Friends have set up a memorial on the shoreline where the accident took place near the south end of Rue Main in Gatineau. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO



A memorial for Shawn Lalonde-Laframboise, 14, on the bank of the Ottawa River near Kettle Island.

ANDRZEJ TERRENCE/FOR METRO

Ottawan out of coma after Miami hit-and-run

RECOVERY

U of O grad had been unconscious since March 29



Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Alex Sanghwan, an Ottawa man badly injured in a hit-and-run in Miami three weeks ago, has been taken out of a medically induced coma at the Jackson Memorial Hospital trauma centre.

"He's still semi-conscious, so he's far from my son right now, but still it's progress," said his mother Patricia, who is still in Florida with Alex's brother Andrew. "We do speak with him, but we don't want to overwhelm him. We have to be careful."

Alex suffered serious injuries from the March 29 collision, including multiple broken bones, damage to his face and severe head trauma.

"Alex had a wide network of friends and knew so many people. Really all the support coming in is because of who he is. He's a pretty special person," said Patricia.

Alex had recently been accepted to medical school in Dublin, Ireland, but was still deciding if he was going to study



Alex Sanghwan was severely injured in a hit-and-run in Miami last month. FACEBOOK

abroad, according to his brother.

He studied biomedical science at the University of Ottawa and conducted research at a university in France. He'd also spent time working at an Appletree clinic and had volunteered at a rural clinic in Guatemala.

"We're overwhelmed by all the support we've been get-

ting, both at home and here in Miami. People have been so helpful to us and very kind," said his mother.

"Basically what they're saying to us right now is they're expecting a good recovery, but it's going to take a long time."

Alex will require extensive cognitive rehabilitation and further surgeries on his injured leg.

Friends and family have raised \$44,000 online to pay for his growing medical bills. Messages of support are also being posted on the "Pray 4 Alex" Facebook page.

"You have many more changes to make in this world Alex. So many prayers your way," wrote Joanne St Louis McCallum on the Facebook support page.

"This will make for a remarkable story when you recover and become a doctor," wrote Nibal Youssef Yehia.

Olivia Bennett, the 26-year-old Miami woman accused of fleeing the scene after her BMW hit Alex, turned herself into police and has been charged with leaving the scene of a crash and reckless driving.



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Budget comes up short: Dewar

POLITICS

NDP, Grit MPs attack income-splitting

The federal budget introduced long-promised income-splitting measures, letting couples with children redistribute their earnings to pay less tax — and keeping local politicians arguing over just who that helps.

"It's a tax cut to the most wealthy and we think that's a

bad choice," said Paul Dewar, NDP member for Ottawa Centre. "We would have preferred to see that invested in child care which would help many more families, particularly here in Ottawa where we have the third-highest cost for child care in the country."

Dewar had a lengthy list of more urgent problems that could be tackled with the \$2.2 billion income-splitting is expected to cost.

"There's no new money for the housing crisis we've had for many years here. Many people in

Ottawa are looking for affordable housing and there's no new help for them," he said. "There were opportunities to actually help everyday families and everyday people, and they came up short."

Liberal David McGuinty, MP for Ottawa South, was equally unimpressed by the budget in general and income-splitting in particular.

"There's baubles and trinkets, a little bit here for Suzy's hockey fees and maybe a little bit there for something else," he said, "but these do not amount to investments in a struggling middle

class. A lot of people in Ottawa are trying to hang on and they need help. They need some support, instead of pursuing this crazy idea of income-splitting that only benefits 15 per cent of Canadian households — it benefits the richest Canadians."

Royal Galipeau, Conservative MP for Ottawa-Orléans and a long-time proponent of income-splitting, argues a \$2,000 cap on possible tax savings prevents it from being a giveaway to the rich.

"The people who benefit the most are from middle class and



“

The only families who benefit in this budget are families who are well off.

Paul Dewar, MP Ottawa-Centre

lower incomes. After it's been in operation for a couple of years people will realize how prudent it was and how beneficial it is for families," he said.

STEVE COLLINS/METRO

'No real investment' in public service, union says

The public service's largest union says there was little good news for its members, Ottawa residents or Canadians in general in yesterday's federal budget.

"There's not a whole lot of sunshine on this budget for us to see at all," said Chris Aylward, national executive vice president of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC).

High on the list of irritants for the union is the government's plan to eliminate the existing sick leave system, which allows public servants to bank sick days, and replace it with a new short-term disability program.

The change, which is supposed to save \$900 million in 2015-16, comes with language that could indicate the government will

simply impose the changes if it can't reach a deal with unions:

"In the event that agreement cannot be reached, the government will take steps required to implement a modernized, disability and sick leave management system within a reasonable time frame," the budget document reads.

"The government continues

to speak out of both sides of their mouth," Aylward said. "In part of this they talk about a commitment to continuing collective bargaining, and then on the other hand it's already predetermined anyway, because if we don't have a deal by a certain date, then the Minister of the Treasury Board will take steps."

And after years of hiring freez-

es and job losses, Aylward said he was disappointed that the budget didn't reverse some of the cuts, like the closures of veterans' centres.

"There's no real investment here in public services and we were looking for that," he said. "We were hoping that they would re-invest in public services and restore some of the ser-

vices they've taken away through austerity, such as for veterans across Canada in the communities that those veterans need those services in."

The government, he added, should have given unemployed Canadians a break.

"At least we were hoping that they would untie some of the EI legislation." STEVE COLLINS/METRO



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Federal budget disappoints student group

EDUCATION

Chairwoman says loans will force students to pay more



This year's federal budget is "disappointing" to post-secondary students, says the country's largest student group.

The Canadian Federation of Students, which represents 60 universities and colleges, wants to see more dollars earmarked for grants to help pay school tuition upfront.

Bilan Arte, the federation's deputy national chairwoman, said she was not surprised by the 2015 federal budget tabled on Tuesday.

"It just adds to a track record of inaction on student debt in this country," she said.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced lower student loan criteria to help more people pay for school.

But Arte said upfront grants would prevent post-graduation debts.

"(Loans are) not going to

help (students) get their foot in the door and ... further finance their education," she said. Instead, the interest rates on student loans are "actually going to force them to pay more for their education than their wealthier counterparts."

The Canadian Federation of Students says students in Ontario and the Maritimes have debt loads averaging \$28,000 at graduation, the highest in the country. Further, the youth unemployment rate was 13.9 per cent in January 2014, according to Statistics Canada.

"Education is no longer a luxury for the few or a privilege for the few. It is a necessity for us all," said Arte. "We need to view post-secondary education as a public good that every single Canadian needs to have access to. There should be a standard of access from coast to coast and we lack a national strategy on that."

However, post-secondary institutions are not totally left out of the 2015 federal budget. The government is investing \$1.33 billion over six years, starting in 2017-2018, to support advanced research infrastructure at universities, colleges and research hospital.

WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Going into an election year, it's certainly disappointing to see a government that is more interested in balancing their own books, perhaps on the backs of students who need access to this education the most.

Bilan Arte, national deputy chairwoman of the Canadian Federation of Students

IN BRIEF

Family holding funeral for 18-year-old stabbing victim



The family of 18-year-old Connor Stevenson, who died April 14 after being stabbed in his apartment's stairwell, announced they will be holding a funeral on Thursday.

Stevenson graduated from Gloucester High School and was living in an apartment building on Jasmine Crescent prior to his death. Police are still investigating the murder.

"He will be in our hearts forever," reads the obituary published Tuesday.

The family raised \$8,520 online to cover funeral expenses.

Friends and family are invited to visit at the St. Laurent Chapel of Hulse, Playfair & McGarry from 1 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. The funeral service will be held at Rothwell United Church on Thursday at 2 p.m.

HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

Orléans street under boil water advisory

A boil water advisory is in effect for Orléans.

Ottawa Public Health issued the precautionary warning on Tuesday. It affects 41 homes from 853 to 911 Beauchaine Dr.

Inspectors are on site in Orléans delivering notices.

Under this advisory, water should be brought to a rapid rolling boil and boiled for one minute. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO



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Tuesday, April 28
5:30 pm to 6:30 pm: information kiosk
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NCC Headquarters, Capital Urbanism Lab
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The National Capital Commission (NCC) is pleased to invite the public to a discussion about regional issues around invasive species. Which species are invasive? What impact are they having, and what challenges do they bring? Remedial action projects will be presented, along with suggested actions that citizens can take to minimize the impact of invasive species. The panel will consist of the following experts:

Iola Price	Ontario Invasive Plants Council
Naomi Cappuccino	Carleton University
Eric Richard	Les amis de la montagne, Mount Royal Park

The public will have the opportunity to address their comments and questions to the expert panel.

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Star receiver Chris Williams returns to CFL with Redblacks

FOOTBALL

Former Ticat also played in NFL with Bears

Steve Collins

Metro | Ottawa

The Ottawa Redblacks introduced the newest member of their team on Tuesday, wide receiver and kick returner Chris Williams, who's been signed to a one-year contract.

"We're very, very excited to have Chris Williams here with the Ottawa Redblacks," said General Manager Marcel Desjardins. "He is going to add so much to our team in terms of what we do offensively, but also what we do on special teams, and you can't discount as well what he's going to be able to do for us in the community. So we're all thrilled to have him here."

The deal marks Williams's CFL homecoming. He played in the NFL for the Chicago Bears last season, returning 24 kickoffs for 579 yards, including a 101-yard touchdown against the Green Bay Packers last November.

Prior to the NFL, Williams, 27, played two seasons with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, where he was the CFL's Most Outstanding



Newly signed Redblacks' receiver Chris Williams, second from left, is welcomed at TD Place by Coach Rick Campbell, left, GM Marcel Desjardins, second from right, and owner Jeff Hunt, right. STEVE COLLINS/METRO

ing Rookie in 2011. His move to Ottawa reunites him with

Redblacks quarterback Henry Burris, another Ti-Cats alum.

+ AT A GLANCE

Williams' 2012 CFL accomplishments:

- Caught 83 passes for 1,298 yards.
- Four times named the league's special teams

- player of the week.
- Returned a missed field goal 119 yards for a major on July 14 vs. Toronto.
- On Sept. 3, scored a punt

return touchdown vs. Toronto, the third consecutive game in which he had a major by punt return, setting a league record.

"I didn't actually get a chance to talk to Henry," Williams said, "but obviously playing with somebody of that calibre and playing with him before definitely made a big impact on me."

Coach Rick Campbell said he hopes new rules being adopted by the CFL will reward players like Williams — "guys that can play in space, run fast and make big plays."

"The off-season work continues and we're looking forward to year two," he said. "We've got a good core group of players here and we want to continue to add weapons, which this guy fits that category."

Williams believes he brings to the team "a little bit of experience, big plays and just a consistency of how to be a pro and how to keep working and get wins in this league."

We're very, very excited to have Chris Williams here with the Ottawa Redblacks.

General Manager Marcel Desjardins



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HEALTH

Students relocate from school

Classes at Charles H. Hulse Public School are being relocated to an empty neighbouring school building while the board deals with a lingering pesticide problem.

Ottawa Public Health described the problem as a "potential ongoing health hazard" and said it will be working with the Ministries of Environment and Labour, Public Health Ontario and Health Canada in order to find a solution.

The unapproved pesticide, which was used to solve a cockroach problem in the building, caused headaches, itching and

watery eyes among staff and students.

The school was originally closed April 17 for extensive cleaning and ventilation.

Ottawa Public Health and the Ministry of Labour cleared the site for public use but the return of the pesticide smell in certain areas forced the school to remain closed.

"OPH has advised that there could be a potential ongoing health hazard at Charles H. Hulse Public School," reads a letter sent to parents April 21. "We will not resume operation at the site until Ottawa Public Health can advise

that there is not a potential ongoing health hazard."

Transportation is being provided to get students from Ridgemont High School, located beside Charles H. Hulse, to Parkwood Hills Public School, which is a 13-minute drive away.

Eric Leclair, the head of health information coordination at Public Health, said he wasn't able to estimate when the school would reopen.

Students or staff experiencing symptoms related to the building are being asked to contact Ottawa Public Health at 613-580-6744.

HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

Firm vows to reduce dumping

LANDFILL

Environmental assessment pending from province



**Lucy
Scholey**
Metro | Ottawa

The Carlsbad Springs landfill will not dump nearly two dozen tankers' worth of garbage goop on an Ottawa wastewater facility, the project's developers promised on Tuesday.

Taggart Miller Environmental Services gave their word to an environment committee: its planned industrial, commercial and institutional facility will not send 22 trucks full of leachate to the city's wastewater facility, as was estimated in the environmental assessment.

The stinky sticking point for

city staff and councillors was addressed at an environment committee on Tuesday.

According to a city report, the Robert O. Pickard Environmental Centre (ROPEC) cannot logistically handle 22 trucks of leachate every day, five days a week.

Michelle Taggart, the director of development at Taggart Investments Inc., said the company would respect the city's request to send just six trucks — or 180,000 litres — of leachate to ROPEC every day.

It was one of several city requests Taggart Miller verbally agreed to on Tuesday.

In four motions, the environment committee voted to ask the company to restrict the Carlsbad landfill boundaries to Ottawa, Prescott, Russell and Stormont Glengarry and strike a public-liaison group.

The committee is also asking the province to spike its diversion rate standard from 17 per cent up to 60 per cent.

It isn't our yay-nay decision. It's the province's.

Coun. David Chernushenko

1,000

The Carlsbad Springs landfill will accept 1,000 to 1,500 tonnes of waste per day and will operate for about 30 years.

METRO

Taggart Miller may have verbally agreed to comply with these city requests, but the Ministry of Environment can take or leave the city's feedback.

"It isn't our yay-nay decision. It's the province's," said environment committee chair Coun. David Chernushenko, who stressed the project is not a municipal dump but privately owned.

The site is already properly zoned for an industrial waste facility.

The Taggart Miller duo — a joint company of Taggart Investments Inc. and Miller Waste Systems Inc. — is proposing a landfill and recycling site on Boundary Road, with a diversion-

rate target of 43 to 57 per cent. Between 300,000 and 450,000 tonnes of industrial, commercial and institutional waste would be trucked to the landfill every year.

"What we're proposing to do is build a truly integrated system that will incorporate a number of recycling technologies in one location, as opposed to a hodgepodge of facilities that may be scattered throughout the province," said Denis Goulet of Miller Waste Systems.

The landfill is still undergoing an environmental assessment.

If approved, construction should start within two to three years, and the facility should open within five years.



**Michelle Taggart,
director of
development at
Taggart Investments
Inc., speaks to
reporters April 21.**

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

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Ottawa youngsters take the ice with Henry Holton

EDUCATION

Author teams with groups to help promote reading

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

While libraries give everyone access to books, there's something luxurious about taking home a glossy, dog-ear-free, brand-new book.

Around 60 grade 1 and 2 students at Severn Avenue Public School got a chance to enjoy that feeling on Tuesday, when each received a signed copy of *Henry Holton Takes the Ice*, a book written by a local author about a boy trying to find his place in a hockey-crazed family.

Having a physical book "gives them something that they can treasure, and it actually belongs to them," said Carrie Ginn, the teacher at the school who organized the giveaway. "A lot of kids now just go home and play video games, but this is something they can share with their parents."

Ottawa author Sandra Bradley read the book aloud to a riveted crowd in the school gym, and answered questions about the writing process. When asked to guess how long it took Bradley to write the book,



Sandra Bradley, author of *Henry Holton Takes the Ice*, reads to the students of Severn Avenue Public School on Tuesday. Bradley partnered with Kumon and First Book Canada to give 60 students a signed copy of the book. ANDRZEJ TERRENCE/FOR METRO

most assumed anything from two hours to two weeks.

They were shocked to learn it took four years to write.

The event was a partnership between Kumon, a national tutoring organization that supplied funding, and First Book Canada, a group that works to distribute brand-new books to families with lower incomes.

The program helps children build enthusiasm for reading,

which is essential to success in school, said Dawa Samdup, a branch manager with Kumon who participated in the event.

"Anything you learn at a young age is learned more thoroughly than things you pick up later in life," he said. "A lot of kids don't have access to new books, and that's something we felt strongly about as a company, so we were happy to get involved."

For a few of the students at the event, Henry Holton will be the first new book they own themselves. That's quite an honour for Bradley.

"I'd heard about First Book before and thought, 'What a great idea,'" she said. "And I loved this school. I was so impressed with all the intelligent questions."

Similar events are organized across the country by First Book

Canada and Kumon. So far, the organization has distributed more than 10 million books.

HEALTH

Family thanks liver donor

Michael and Johanne Wagner can't express their gratitude enough.

The couple from Kingston, Ont., broke down in tears Tuesday as they thanked an anonymous donor who made it possible for the second of their twin daughters to receive a life-saving liver transplant.

Pausing to take deep breaths as they faced a wall of journalists at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, the Wagners said they now looked forward to a long life with their two little girls.

"Thank you for your unselfishness for what you've done," an emotional Johanne Wagner said as she held one of her daughters in her arms. "There's no other word than thank you."

The story of three-year-old Phuoc and Binh Wagner has tugged at heartstrings across the country and beyond.

The twin girls were 18 months old when the Wagners adopted them from Vietnam.

They are the youngest of the couple's nine children — the Wagners had five kids before deciding to adopt four more.

The couple knew early on that the girls had liver problems, but didn't know the extent.

It turned out that the twins have Alagille syndrome, a genetic disorder that affects vital organs. Doctors said they would die without a liver transplant.

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Cancer patient gets flood relief

INSURANCE

Grey Power reverses its decision not to compensate

Anxiety turned to relief for an 84-year-old cancer patient on Tuesday when she learned

that a major insurance company was reversing its decision not to compensate her for flood damage that occurred while she was away receiving chemotherapy.

Ivy Scotland said Grey Power Insurance, which had previously declined to pay for the \$11,000 damage to her Pembroke, Ont. home, has done a complete about-face after

a senior adjuster visited her home earlier in the day.

Grey Power originally said the extensive water damage caused when a pipe burst in January could not be covered under Scotland's long-held policy.

The company argued that Scotland had failed to put someone in place to make daily checks inside her home after the first four days of her

extended absence for cancer treatment.

But the adjuster's visit yielded a very different decision, Scotland said.

In addition to shouldering all costs and beginning repair work next week, Scotland said the company has now waived the \$2,000 deductible, reimbursed her for the price of a contractor she hired in

I'm so happy. They are going to start (repairs) right away.

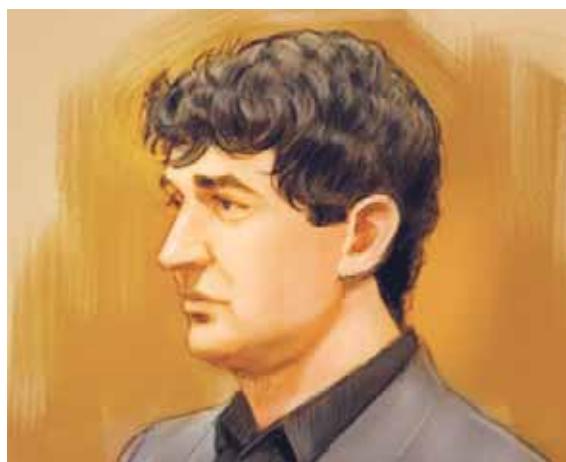
Ivy Scotland

the aftermath of the flood, committed to either reupholstering or replacing certain items of furniture

and even offered to take on a minor repair that was unrelated to the original claim.

"He went to see the place and was convinced that they should do something about it. I'm happy with whatever he did," Scotland said in a telephone interview from Ottawa. "I'm so happy. They're going to start ... right away."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Witness Matt Donohue, son of Mike Duffy's friend Gerald Donohue, testifies at the trial. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MIKE DUFFY TRIAL

Accused's friend now under microscope

What does an Ottawa home-construction product company have to do with Sen. Mike Duffy's office contracts? The answer has yet to be fully fleshed out in an Ottawa courtroom, but the details unfolding this week add a new layer of complexity to an already convoluted trial.

The now-suspended senator is facing 31 charges of fraud, breach of trust and bribery. Some of the charges relate to \$65,000 in Senate contracts given to Duffy's friend Gerald Donohue through Donohue's companies Maple Ridge Media and Ottawa ICF.

Some of that money was later allotted to other individuals — an office volunteer, a photo developing store, a speechwriter, a political consultant, a personal trainer and others, through those Donohue firms.

Duffy's lawyer has made the case that while unorthodox, the payments all linked to legitimate Senate business and Duffy never received any kickbacks.

The perplexing thing is that Donohue wasn't eligible to earn money because he was on disability assistance. He didn't own or technically even work for Maple Ridge Media or Ottawa ICF. His wife Gail was a figurehead president, and his son a director.

And that company was ostensibly in the business of selling and helping to install a particular kind of home-building product — insulated concrete forms. Donohue told police in a 2013 interview that he didn't actually do most of the work that was described in Senate invoices and he didn't personally receive any of the \$65,000 paid by the Senate.

"He said he earned money for the company which consisted of his wife and son," reads the transcript of the police interview.

It gets more bewildering — the son says he didn't know about any of the Senate business.

Matt Donohue testified Tuesday that although he was a 40 per cent shareholder in the family company, he didn't know the details of his father's dealings with Duffy and he didn't recognize any of the subcontractors who received payments.

"The affairs of my father and his friends and acquaintances was really none of my business, so I didn't stick my nose into the nature of it," said Donohue, who said he is currently unemployed.

Gerald Donohue was scheduled to testify this week, but the court heard that he was recently hospitalized and is recovering at home. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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EMPLOYMENT

Immigrant concerns addressed

Two long-standing concerns among immigrants to Canada were addressed Tuesday in the federal budget, one about how they can do better here and another about how they can better help their families back home.

The budget announced that a pilot program launched three years ago to help internationally-trained people get their skills up to Canadian standards via small loans will become permanent in a bid to get newcomers better jobs.

At the same time, the budget announced the government also wants to help immigrants have safer, more reliable ways to send income from those jobs to their home countries.

The loan program dates back to the 2011 election campaign, when the Conservatives promised to do more to help internationally-trained workers find jobs in their field.

An often-cited problem was the fact that many immigrants didn't have the financial means to take the exams or courses required by Canadian regulations and lacked credit history to get bank loans to cover the costs.

The government said that in the first two years, nearly 1,500 loans worth \$9 million were given out. THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ PROGRAM

- An additional \$35 million has now been set aside for future loans over the next five years.

- An estimated 24 per cent of foreign-educated immigrants work in regulated professions for which they were trained, compared to 62 per cent of the Canadian-born population, according to the Social Research and Demonstration Corporation.



Finance Minister Joe Oliver delivers the federal budget Tuesday in the House of Commons. Oliver faced questions about his decision to reduce the emergency reserve, designed for unforeseen events like natural disasters. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Budget surplus uses contingency reserve

POLITICS

Feds take \$2B from rainy-day fund to help balance books

The Harper government lived up to its promise Tuesday to eliminate the deficit, making use of billions of dollars in balance-sheet tweaks designed to cushion the blow of the oil-price shock.

Finance Minister Joe Oliver delivered a federal budget that boasted a narrow \$1.4-billion surplus for 2015-16, scoring a politically critical goal just six months before a scheduled election in October.

The toughest stretch of Oliver's quest to guide the books back into the black began in

November, around the time he rolled out a fiscal update that projected a meagre \$1.9-billion surplus — slimmed down due to sliding crude prices. The surplus estimate shrank to \$1.6 billion days later following an infrastructure announcement.

That was right before oil prices fell off the cliff.

The collapse forced Oliver to postpone the budget so he could assess the impact of the oil-price volatility.

To arrive at a surplus Tuesday, Oliver had to take the unusual step of draining \$2 billion out of the budget's \$3-billion rainy-day reserve, a cushion designed for unforeseeable events like natural disasters.

That adjustment was combined with several additional changes since oil started its swing from \$81US a barrel



It's not something you tap into on budget day because you're missing a couple of billion dollars.

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair talks about the use of the contingency reserve to balance the budget.

in November, to under \$50US mid-winter, before climbing back up to about \$55US.

Since November, another \$1 billion was applied to the bottom line from the sale of the government's remaining stake in General Motors, which generated a total net gain of \$2.1 billion.

The budget also projected an additional \$900-million net increase in revenue for 2015-16 based on changes the government hopes to make to public-sector disability and sick leave plans — even though negotiations are still

ongoing.

The finance minister said this element was "in accordance with federal accounting principles."

Oliver's blueprint also predicted an extra \$3 billion, thanks to lower interest rates.

On top of that, the government received a \$3.4-billion boost thanks to a surplus in the employment insurance account created by the buildup of premiums.

But Oliver faced the most questions about his decision to reduce the contingency reserve. He argued such a big re-

\$750M

\$750 million over two years, starting in 2017-18, plus \$1 billion a year thereafter, has been committed to a fund to promote investment in public transit systems.

\$10K

The annual contribution limit to tax-free savings accounts increases to \$10,000 from \$5,500, effective this year.

\$11.8M

The Canadian military will receive \$11.8 billion over 10 years, in an increase to the baseline defence appropriation, beginning in the 2017-18 fiscal year.

\$292.6M

The RCMP and Canada's spy and border agencies get a total \$292.6-million over five years, providing additional resources for each agency to fight terrorism.

serve was not needed because the government had balanced the books.

The budget projected revenues to drop by \$6 billion in 2015-16, \$7.1 billion in 2016-17 and about \$6.5 billion annually between 2017-18 and 2019-20.

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair said the government's use of the contingency reserve to balance the budget was "a bit of economic sleight of hand."

It's an emergency fund, he said.

"It's not something you tap into on budget day because you're missing a couple of billion dollars." THE CANADIAN PRESS

ACCIDENT

Charge downgraded against Canadian man in Wyoming crash

Authorities have dropped an aggravated vehicular homicide charge against a Quebec truck driver involved in a fiery chain-reaction crash in southeast Wyoming that killed two people.

Instead, Alex Dragaytsev, 45, was cited Tuesday for failure to use caution for hazardous conditions — a charge that carries a \$60 fine.

The resident of Longueuil, in the Montreal area, was released from custody, said Albany

County prosecuting attorney Peggy Trent.

"We did not feel that there was, from the investigation that was completed at this point, that we could proceed with the charge at this point," Trent said.

Trent said she didn't know where Dragaytsev went after he was released.

Earlier on Tuesday, Wyoming Highway Patrol Sgt. David Wagener said Dragaytsev was being held at the Albany County jail in Laramie.

The pileup began after two commercial trucks collided, causing one to jackknife in both westbound lanes, Wagener said.

The pileup happened around 8 a.m. Monday about 30 kilometres west of Laramie in dense fog and light slush.

More than 60 vehicles were involved and traffic was shut down for about 160 kilometres in both directions as the fiery crash sent up a column of thick black smoke.

Dozens of other vehicles piled

+ FATALITIES

The Wyoming Highway Patrol identified the two motorists killed as Lynn Freeman, 58, of Williford, Ark., and Jenay L. Breden, 23, of Westminster, Colo.

into the crash on Interstate 80. The 64 vehicles involved included a tanker containing a flammable liquid that caught fire

and required foam to put it out.

It appeared no hazardous materials leaked, said Bruce Burrows, spokesman for the Wyoming Department of Transportation.

An estimated 20 to 25 people were taken to a nearby hospital — three were admitted and one was transferred to a hospital in Denver.

The crash occurred four days after several pileups during a blinding snowstorm closed the busy interstate for two days.

In both cases, poor visibility was a factor.

However, authorities were still investigating and could not say whether the latest wreck involved motorists travelling too fast for the conditions, as occurred in last week's crashes.

Wagener said many details of the case will be part of the final police report into the crash, which is days, if not weeks, away from being completed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS WITH FILES
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Medicinal pot tough to access

HEALTH

New legalities challenge the patience of the patients

A University of British Columbia study has found medicinal marijuana patients are struggling to access cannabis under current regulations and many are turning to the black market.

The study, led by UBC nursing Prof. Lynda Balneaves and PhD student Rielle Capler, looks at the impact of shifting federal regulations on patients who access medical pot.

Capler said about a third of 450 patients surveyed nationally reported they could not access medical marijuana legally under the federal rules.

"They really want to be able to use this medicine legally," she said. "They've expressed patience and understanding that there are some growing pains but in the meantime, they're also sharing that it's really impacting ... their

health and well-being."

The old rules allowed licence holders to grow pot themselves or find designated growers and were to be replaced at the end of April 2014 by new regulations that require patients to buy cannabis from commercially licensed producers.

A court injunction has kept them alive for those already enrolled in the program until a constitutional challenge of the new rules could be heard.

That challenge was recently heard in Vancouver's Federal Court, and advocates are eagerly awaiting a decision.

Capler's team is beginning its analysis and their results are preliminary. She expects the study to shed light on who is struggling to gain legal access to pot and why.

She said one major issue was affordability, noting patients have said the old program allowed them to grow their own marijuana at a cost of about \$2 a gram, compared to about \$8 to \$10 a gram through the new program.

"For a lot of patients, that's not affordable," she



Medical marijuana plants at a facility in Richmond, B.C. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

said. "People don't want to be breaking the law to get the medicine they need, so patients have expressed a lot of stress and anxiety around potentially having to do that."

Many patients are turning to dispensaries, which are

abundant in Vancouver but technically illegal.

These dispensaries do require a doctor's confirmation and have standards around quality of supply.

A Vancouver-headquartered cannabis company, Kaneh

Bosm, has also announced it will bring two high-tech vending machines to the city.

The company's director said in a statement that the machines are "similar to the Best Buy kiosks that you see in airports" and there are al-

ready over 2,000 of the devices operating in Western Europe.

The B.C. Pain Society installed the first pot vending machine in Canada last May at its Commercial Drive location in Vancouver, where director Chuck Varabioff said it has made more than \$1 million so far.

He said the product is safer in a vending machine because it is sealed in double tamper-proof packaging, so it hasn't been touched by multiple people before a patient buys it.

"You have to remember everybody going into a dispensary is supposedly sick. Now do you want 20 people before you handling your product before you actually buy it and take it home?"

"I think I know the answer to that." THE CANADIAN PRESS



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 WIND

Battle of Ypres a baptism of fire for Canadian forces

FIRST WORLD WAR

Germans first used poison gas at seldom-taught battle

The first hint Pte. Alfred Baggs had that something was wrong came when a horse-drawn French ammunition wagon rattled past his startled foot patrol late in the afternoon amid the chalky, ruined streets of Vlaminghe, a Belgian town.

Headed in the wrong direction, it was followed quickly by a car, driven by a French colonel and overflowing with wounded who "looked deathly pale," Baggs confided to his field notebook.

The enemy had broken through, he was told, before the car and the caissons disappeared in a cloud of dust toward the crushed Belgian city of Ypres, just a few kilometres away.

Baggs, a Briton by birth but a new Canadian by choice, seemed shocked and excited by the prospect of action.

It was April 22, 1915 — a sunny but cold spring day.

The 1st Canadian Division had only been in the field a few weeks when the Germans, who'd regularly shelled the tiny bulge of territory known as the Ypres Salient, opened a massive offensive.

Mostly forgotten in popular imagination and rarely taught in high-school history, the Second Battle of Ypres was the baptism



The mist begins to lift in the early morning over Flanders Fields near Ypres, Belgium, on Tuesday. The Second Battle of Ypres began one hundred years ago on April 22, 1915. VIRGINIA MAYO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

of fire for the fledgling force of Canadians, hastily assembled at the outbreak of the First World War the previous summer.

At the time, Ypres was the last major Belgian city not under the boot of Kaiser Wilhelm's army and had been the scene of a desperate, successful stand by the British Expeditionary Force the previous fall.

It is also notable as the first time the Germans unleashed clouds of poison gas to subdue

resistance in Allied trenches, says Melanie Morin-Pelletier, the Canadian War Museum's expert in the First World War.

The Canadians would be mostly spared the initial, horrifying waves of green vapour that drifted across no man's land. It was pushed on by the wind after being released from 5,730 industrial canisters on the German lines.

The initial blow fell mostly on the French colonial troops who had rushed past Baggs. He noted in his diary how everyone was talking about the enemy attack that had taken place under the cover of "asphyxiating gas."

At the time, none of the Allied commanders knew precisely what type of gas had been used,

although they had been warned it was coming by captured German prisoners. But Morin-Pelletier said there was little they could do to prepare for it.

It was a Canadian doctor — Capt. Francis Scrimger — who first recognized the eerie, floating cloud as chlorine.

Gas masks were just in their infancy, and the best protection Scrimger could suggest was for troops to urinate into their handkerchiefs and hold them over their faces until the cloud had passed.

As they fought to close a six-kilometre gap in the line created by the French collapse, the Canadians would feel the full force of the gas on April 24, two days after the first volley.

Capt. William Boyd, a medical officer attached to a field ambulance unit, visited a casualty clearing station jammed with the dead and dying.

"There I saw a sight which for sheer ghastliness equals anything to be seen in any dressing station," he wrote in memoirs published in 1916.

The Canadians drove the Germans back over several days but at great cost.

In a series of counterattacks that bought time for the British and French to deploy reinforcements, the 1st Canadian Division and the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, which fought separately, lost 6,714 dead and wounded, or about one man in three. THE CANADIAN PRESS

OPCW marks WWI gas attack

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons marked the centennial of the first large-scale use of gas during the First World War with a commemoration Tuesday to pay tribute to all victims of such arms over the past century.

Close to the fields where Germany first used chlorine gas in its April 22, 1915 attack, OPCW director general Ahmet Üzümcü said that the purpose of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning organization could never be fully finished.

"Our success cannot only be measured in weapons destroyed. It must extend to preventing new weapons from being developed and from being built," Üzümcü said.

The rival armies ultimately launched 146 gas attacks in Belgium alone, which covered only a small patch of the Western Front. The Germans used about 150 (imperial) tons of gas in their first attack. Germany ultimately used 68,000 tons. The Allies used even more: 82,000 tons.

Chemical weapons killed nearly 100,000 and injured around 1 million more during the war.

Now, the challenge for the 2013 Nobel winners remains as daunting. The size of stockpiles may be similar but the effectiveness has increased greatly.

"In only 18 years, we have all seen the destruction of 87 per cent of all declared chemical weapons, or 63,000 metric tonnes out of 72,000 tonnes," Üzümcü said.

"This consists largely of component chemicals for mixing deadly nerve agents such as Sarin and it includes 98 per cent of Syria's total declared stockpile," he said.

Even today, the OPCW monitors reports that chlorine gas has repeatedly been used in Syria's civil war. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Some were lying in a state of stupor, the flies buzzing about their faces; some were sitting up gasping for breath.

Memoirs of Capt. William Boyd



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The real meaning of poverty

CHALLENGE DAY 2

Metro reporter reflects on what the poor endure day in, day out



Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

As I was fixing myself a quick dinner the other night, deep thoughts about poverty started flowing through my mind.

Not the kind of poverty I'm experiencing with the Live Below the Line challenge, but real poverty — the kind that does more than just affect the food you buy and how much of it you eat.

While pulling ingredients from my refrigerator, it suddenly occurred to me that many of the 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty don't even have the luxury of a cool, safe place to store the groceries they can afford.

There's warm water available in my kitchen sink, which allows me to wash the food I'm about to eat.

There's electricity that powers my kitchen light and stove, both of which are switched on as I chop a tomato and onions to make mushroom soup that I will mix with beans and puree. It also means I can use a microwave to warm up my pita bread.

But somewhere in a sub-Saharan African village — where most of the people living on the poverty line are located, according to various World Bank reports on poverty — a mother trying to put food on the table for her kids doesn't have the same comfort.

She may have spent an entire day working the fields of the rich to earn money that allows her kids to attend school. Whatever is left of that money, she'll likely use to buy a meager

LIVING BELOW THE LINE

The reporter: Gilbert Ngabo works for Metro in Toronto. He moved to Canada from Rwanda five years ago.

The mission: To live on just \$1.75 a day for five days — a challenge made to all Canadians by the Global Poverty Project, which says that's the daily budget of those who live below the poverty line.

The series: Day 2 of 5, Gilbert Ngabo contemplates what it really means to be poor.

Follow Gilbert Ngabo on Twitter @dugilbo or at metronews.ca.

portion of food. When it's time to cook dinner, she'll first have to find firewood, which can be a difficult chore.

If, by any chance, some food is left over after dinner, she won't have a place to keep it. By the next morning, it will be inedible.

While that may be a picture from miles away, poverty isn't any different here.

Halfway through my dinner, I remembered a man I once met in downtown Toronto.

It was around Christmastime, and I was helping a friend deliver food that served as gifts to homeless people living on the street.

The man unwrapped his hand from a blanket to receive his package as I wished him a Merry Christmas.

Looking me straight in the eyes, he thanked me and quickly asked where I was from (he must have detected my thick accent). He then told me he'd heard a lot of bad things about my home



Reporter Gilbert Ngabo eats a lunch of cheese cubes and leftover soup, in the Metro News kitchen. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

GROCERIES

Convenience at a premium

country and said he hoped things were better. I told him they were and asked him how he knew what he's just recounted.

"I read newspapers, the free ones," he said.

I hope that man has found a better life. And, if he's still reading, I want him to know that remembering the encounter brought tears to my eyes as I was finishing my dinner.

As one reader emailed to point out, I'm not truly "living below the line" while on this challenge. I'm just "eating" on the line, and it's nowhere close to what many face day in and day out.

But the experience makes my heart pound for the poor in a way it never did before.



1 The Havarti cheese Gilbert bought at a downtown Toronto No Frills cost less than \$2.



2 The same cheese cost \$5.49 at the Kitchen Table across from the Metro News office, where Gilbert works.

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Rescuers help children to disembark Monday in the Sicilian harbour of Pozzallo, Italy. About 100 migrants, including 28 children, were rescued on Sunday by a merchant vessel in the Sicilian Strait while they were trying to cross. ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BACKGROUND

Deaths

The International Organization for Migration said the toll for the year could top 30,000 — nearly 10 times the 2014 total of 3,279, itself a record.

"We just want to make sure people understand how much more ... rapid these deaths have been coming this year," said Joel Millman, the IOM spokesman.

Italian ships have rescued well over 10,000 people over the past two weeks, an unprecedented number for such a short period, authorities say. The rescues continued Tuesday, with another 112 migrants, all men, picked up in a deflating rubber life raft in waters some 70 kilometers north of the Libyan capital, Tripoli.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smuggler rammed into ship: Survivors

MIGRANT CRISIS

At least 800 perished: Witnesses

A ship with experience plucking migrants from unseaworthy smugglers' boats had arrived soon after the distress call went out. But then the fishing trawler's navigator allegedly made a manoeuvre that would seal the fate of the 850 people crammed inside: Instead of easing up alongside the merchant ship, he is alleged to have rammed it.

Relief gave way to panic. Terrified migrants rushed to one side, the trawler seized and capsized. What might have been another rescue in a period of unprecedented migrant crossings instead turned into a horrifying statistic: The deadliest shipwreck ever in the Mediterranean Sea.

The accounts of survivors who arrived early Tuesday in the port of Catania, Sicily 48 hours after the disaster offered new details of the tragedy. The traumatized witnesses corroborated a death toll of at least 800, making the capsizing "the deadliest

incident in the Mediterranean that we have ever recorded," the UN refugee agency said.

Just 28 migrants, all men and boys in their teens, survived. And despite the enormous toll, only 24 bodies were recovered.

Aid agencies were quick to issue another warning: At the current pace, 2015 is set to be the deadliest year on record for migrants making the perilous crossing as they flee war, repression and poverty in the Middle East and Africa. In April alone, 1,300 have died.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A mugshot released by Italian Police in Catania, Italy, Tuesday, shows Mohammed Ali Malek. He was taken into custody on suspicion of being captain of the smuggler's boat. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ERITREA

African migrants face new threat in ISIL militants

Tesfay Kidane's troubles began with a simple request: He wanted to go to his brother's wedding.

Doing mandatory national service in the east African country of Eritrea, Kidane asked his commander for permission for a leave to attend the wedding. The request was denied, starting a chain of events that friends say sent Kidane on a desperate trek across the Egyptian desert, into an Israeli detention centre, and then back to Africa, culminating with his apparent

death at the hands of ISIL captors in Libya.

His tale reflects the deep sense of desperation that has driven hundreds of thousands of Africans to risk their lives as they flee war, poverty and hardship, and the struggle that Israel and European countries face as they cope with an unwanted and overwhelming influx of new arrivals.

Kidane, who was about 30, is believed to have been among dozens of Christian Africans who were shot or beheaded on a Libyan beach in a video

released by ISIL this week.

"We are really sorry. We are very sad," said Aman Beyene, an Eritrean migrant who said he was friends with Kidane. "He was a very kind person. He was a hard worker."

While the identities of the dead have not been officially confirmed, Beyene, speaking from the Israeli detention centre where he knew Kidane, said he and other members of Israel's Eritrean migrant community instantly recognized their compatriot in the video.

Beyene said the commun-

ity had spoken to someone in Libya who saw the incident, and the Hotline for Refugees and Migrants, an Israeli advocacy group that helps African migrants, said Kidane was a relative of one of its workers. The hotline said it believed that two other people seen in the video had also spent time in Israeli detention.

Kidane's story mirrors those of tens of thousands of Africans who have made their way to Israel in recent years. Most of these migrants came from Eritrea — a nation with one

of the world's most dismal human rights records. Among the many abuses that citizens face is years of forced military conscription.

Beyene, himself a former Eritrean conscript, said "national service" is grueling and boring work. He said that after being barred from going to his brother's wedding, Kidane made plans to sneak away but was arrested three days before the ceremony. "He immediately decided to leave the country," Beyene said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CANADA

Chance at freedom worth risk: Migrant

A young Sri Lankan man crammed into the cargo hold of a ship with nearly 500 others had only one thing on his mind — getting to the promised land called Canada.

Nearly five years after the vessel arrived in British Columbia, the refugee claimant says he understands the plight of hundreds of migrants who have died in the Mediterranean Sea since April 13.

The man, whose identity is protected by a publication ban, says he paid a smuggler in Thailand to board a ship full of men, women and children who feared they'd drown during a violent storm.

The man dubbed B188 in Canadian government documents says the risk of dying at sea was worth it for a shot at freedom, and it's the same chance that migrants heading from Africa to Europe are taking.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

LIBYA

Militants profit from human trafficking

Libya's chaos has spurred human trafficking, a spokesman for the country's internationally recognized government said Tuesday, urging the world community to help his administration gain control of the rest of the country.

The appeal comes as violence in Libya surges and more and more crowded refugee rafts head to Europe, many of which have capsized, leaving hundreds feared dead. Libya has two rival governments, each claiming legitimacy as their allied militias fight across the country.

The smuggling of migrants to Europe via Libya generates massive amounts of illicit money, some of which ends up in the hands of militant groups, Hatem al-Aribi said in an interview in the eastern city of Bayda.

"There are those who are using Libya as a safe passage in the current situation, especially given the inability to secure the entire Libyan territory," al-Aribi told The Associated Press.

"The amount of money involved in this trade is huge, and we have intelligence that some of this money goes to terrorist organizations."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RELIGION

Pope accepts U.S. bishop's resignation

Pope Francis accepted the resignation Tuesday of a U.S. bishop who pleaded guilty to failing to report a suspected child abuser, answering calls by victims to take action against bishops who cover up for pedophile priests.

Bishop Robert Finn, who led the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph in Missouri for nearly 10 years, resigned under canon law that allows bishops to resign early for illness or some "grave" reason that makes them unfit for office. But his resignation did not provide a specific reason.

Finn, 62, is 13 years shy of the normal retirement age of 75.

In 2012, Finn pleaded guilty to a misdemeanour charge of failure to report suspected abuse and was sentenced to two years of probation, making him the highest-ranking church official in the U.S. to be convicted of not taking action in

response to abuse allegations.

Prosecutors say the diocese did not notify police until six months after concerns were raised in 2011 about the Rev. Shawn Ratigan, whose computers were found to contain hundreds of lewd photos of young girls. Since the convictions, Finn has faced pressure to resign, including local and national petition drives asking the Pope to remove him from the diocese.

The removal was praised by Marie Collins, a prominent member of Francis' own sex-abuse advisory board who had called for Finn to go and demanded that the Vatican hold bishops accountable when they fail to protect children.

"Things are moving slowly, as I have said many times, but they are moving in the right direction!" Collins tweeted.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRELAND

Charles to visit scene of great-uncle's killing

Prince Charles is expected to visit the scene of the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) most high-profile assassination — the 1979 slaying of Charles' great-uncle, Lord Mountbatten — during an official visit next month to Ireland.

The British and Irish governments said Tuesday that details are still being confirmed for Charles' May tour involving County Sligo in western Ireland, where Mountbatten lived without security in a castle residence for many years despite the IRA threat.

The outlawed group killed the 79-year-old Second World War hero and Britain's last viceroy of India, as well as three other people, by detonating a remote-control bomb hidden aboard his yacht in the village of Mul-

laghmore.

At the time, Sinn Fein politician Gerry Adams justified Mountbatten's killing: "With his war record, I don't think he could have objected to dying in what was clearly a war situation. He knew the danger involved in coming to this country."

Charles has been the diplomatic trailblazer for the British royal family in Ireland. In 1995, a year after the dominant branch of the IRA called an open-ended ceasefire, he became the first British royal since Irish independence in 1922 to pay an official visit to the republic. Charles made a second official visit in 2002 that paved the way for his mother, Queen Elizabeth, to make a state visit across Ireland in 2011.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



ROYAL FAMILY HAPPY BIRTHDAY, YOUR HIGHNESS Members of the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery fire a salvo during a 41-gun salute to celebrate the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II in London's Hyde Park on Tuesday. Some 71 horses pulled six First World War-era 13-pounder field guns in the park for the salute. ALASTAIR GRANT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ex-Auschwitz guard admits moral guilt

HOLOCAUST

Accused says he witnessed Jews being led to gas chambers

Former SS Sgt. Oskar Groening told a German court Tuesday that he helped keep watch as thousands of Jews were led from cattle cars directly to the gas chambers at the Auschwitz death camp where he served as a guard.

The 93-year-old, charged with 300,000 counts of accessory to murder, said as his trial opened that he witnessed individual atrocities but did not acknowledge participating in any crimes.

He recalled how a fellow guard

discovered a baby abandoned among luggage and bashed it against a truck to stop its crying. After that, he unsuccessfully requested a transfer and started to drink heavily to cope with working at the camp in Nazi-occupied Poland, he said.

"I share morally in the guilt, but whether I am guilty under criminal law, you will have to decide," Groening told judges hearing the case at the Lueneburg state court in northern Germany. Under the German legal system, defendants do not enter formal pleas.

Groening testified in a lengthy statement to the court that he volunteered to join the SS in 1940 after working briefly at a bank and served at Auschwitz from 1942 to 1944.



Oskar Groening. RONNY HARTMANN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

has dubbed him the "Accountant of Auschwitz."

Groening said the money was regularly sent back to Berlin. Pressed by presiding Judge Franz Kompisch, he said his view was that it belonged to the state.

"They didn't need it anymore," he said of the Jews from whom the money was taken — drawing gasps from watching Auschwitz survivors.

The trial is the first to test a new line of German legal reasoning that has unleashed an 11th-hour wave of new investigations of Nazi suspects. Prosecutors argue that anyone who was a death-camp guard can be charged as an accessory to murders committed there, even without evidence of involvement in a specific death. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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EARTH DAY

Shedding light on energy-efficient bulbs



**Jessica
Smith Cross**
Metro | Toronto

If you plan to celebrate Earth Day by buying energy-efficient light bulbs, there are a few things you need to know.

These are both the best of times and the worst of times in lighting because there are so many different, available options for energy-friendly bulbs, but many of them aren't any good, said interior designer Janice Lindsay.

The problem with many new energy-efficient bulbs is they produce a cool, bluish light that Lindsay said not only makes your colours look awful — they're unpleasant enough to be "psychologically damaging."

The first and most important thing to look for is the correlated colour temperature (CCT) which tells you how cool or warm the light is, she said.

If the CCT isn't specified on the box, don't buy the bulb, she said. For a normal homey look, choose 2700K. A cooler, contemporary look is 3000K, but don't go any higher or you'll get the sterile hospital look, she said.

Next, check the colour rendering index (CRI) which indicates how close the light produced is to natural light. It should be between 80 and

100, she said. A bad CRI will also skew your colour scheme.

If you're doing more work than just replacing your bulbs, you should consider lighting from the beginning and wire your home appropriately, considering what you need to light and setting up switches, with dimmers, for every area, she said.

That way, you can choose different levels of light for different purposes and turn on only what you need. Leaving the lights you don't need off and dimming the lights you do use to the right level will save energy, and money.

QUICK TIPS

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

When Earth Day comes around, we all want to do our part to benefit the environment.

One solution is to buy energy-efficient light bulbs. When doing so, keep an eye out for the CCT count, which tells you how warm or cool the emitted light will be.

Also note the CRI, which tells you how close the light is to natural light. This should be between 80 and 100. METRO



Twitter says its new policies will help the company police online harassment in a variety of contexts for users of the service.

MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Twitter policy shift targets online abuse

SOCIAL MEDIA

Support team can now lock accounts over violent threats

After facing criticism over its failure to combat abusive content, Twitter has announced some changes that it hopes will make it easier to deal with negative messages.

In a blog post by Shreyas Doshi, director of product management, the company unveiled two changes to its policy: expanding the scope of its "violent threats" policy

and giving more power to its support team to lock out an account for a period of time.

"We are updating our violent threats policy so that the prohibition is not limited to 'direct, specific threats of violence against others' but now extends to 'threats of violence against others or promoting violence against others.' Our previous policy was unduly narrow and limited our ability to act on certain kinds of threatening behaviour," wrote Doshi.

In terms of enforcement, Twitter's safety team can also now lock accounts for a specific period of time and give offending users options on how they may return to the service, such

We suck at dealing with abuse and trolls.

Twitter CEO Dick Costolo, in a 2014 company memo.

as deleting content or verifying a phone number to get back on the service.

"This option gives us leverage in a variety of contexts, particularly where multiple users begin harassing a particular person or group of people," wrote Doshi.

As well, the blog post mentions testing a new automated

feature that aims to help find suspected abusive tweets by looking at a number of factors, including having similar content to a tweet that the company's safety team has previously determined to be abusive.

These changes have likely been in the works for a while, as last year CEO Dick Costolo wrote in a leaked internal memo: "We suck at dealing with abuse and trolls on the platform and we've sucked at it for years. It's no secret and the rest of the world talks about it every day. We lose core user after core user by not addressing simple trolling issues that they face every day."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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the big question

Can math save the honeybees?

Young bees who leave stressed hives too early are dying in the field — which in turn causes the whole colony to collapse, according to researchers at Western University. Grad student Matthew Betti and his team used a game-changing mathematical model to show the chain-reaction effect when a colony is threatened (by pesticides, pests, infections or parasites) and forager bees are sent out for food before they reach maturity at 14 days. When they don't return, the hive dies. Now, when beekeepers see younger bees leaving, they can test for disease or transfer healthy bees to a new hive. The results might also save us humans — forager bees pollinate plants that are responsible for \$13 billion in agriculture worldwide each year.

Earth Day — when better to ask for changes at work?

THE SCIENCE

Stephanie Orford



Office garbage-can culture has got to go.

Most Canadians wouldn't dream of throwing a pop bottle or newspaper into a garbage can on the street — but too many do it at the office.

Office buildings in Canada seem to be the last stronghold of garbage-can culture. My friends and colleagues from across Canada describe workplaces that won't recycle cans, glass or plastic; some even empty the recycling boxes into the garbage.

Today, on Earth Day's 45th anniversary, much of the conversation will surround big issues such as climate change. But it's important to remember the cumulative impact of seemingly little things, like trashing a pop can.

Of course there are stellar businesses out there who take a lead in environmental sustainability, but why do so many Canadian office buildings have dubious or nonexistent recycling practices?

Although Canadian provincial and municipal governments have or are developing progressive environmental policies, office buildings remain relatively unregulated.

"By and large, municipalities aren't in the business of managing private-sector waste," explains Maria Kelleher, principal of Kelleher Environmental, a consulting firm based in Toronto.

"That's up to the big waste-management companies, and they provide whatever services the building owner asks them for."

Governments can offer incentives to encourage recycling. "In Toronto, where I live, the city picks up from about 14,000 commercial businesses

(mostly small retail stores) on main streets. They can set out as much recycling as they want at no charge; they get green bin pickup for free."

Because the city charges for garbage pickup, she points out, there's more motivation to use the recycling and green bins.

Getting office buildings to recycle isn't as simple as imposing municipal regulations, says Kelleher, explaining that recycling bylaws depend partly on whether the municipality owns the landfill and other logistical factors.

Office-building recycling is hard to enforce, Kelleher explains. "In Ontario we have over 400,000 businesses. You'd have to go out to each of their sites to see if they're doing what they're supposed to be."

Municipal governments such as Toronto's now require new buildings to have design features that make recycling easy. But many older build-

ings can't accommodate it.

"What do you do if you're on the 24th floor and you're trying to gather up your newspapers and cans and bottles? It's just not that convenient," says Kelleher. Old buildings often don't have space. There's room for one bin in the basement, not four.

So what can we do to help Canadian office buildings get with the recycling program?

"It all comes down to the building owner or manager," Kelleher says. If recycling isn't happening at your office, chances are your building manager doesn't understand how important it is to you.

Speak up and tell your office or building manager you want a better recycling program. You won't get what you don't ask for.

Stephanie Orford is a Vancouver-based writer. The Science appears every other Wednesday.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metrview

Small-town papers require force of will



It's easy to dismiss community journalism as a glorified newsletter. It's not.

It's a source, just like dominant media outlets, of reporting excellence.

That's been proven this week by a small-town paper in the U.S. that won a Pulitzer Prize for uncovering widespread corruption in a Los Angeles-area school district. The little-known Daily Breeze beat out the likes of the Chicago Tribune for the award.

That excellence is also in the work of Steve Bonspiel of Kahnawake, Que., population 8,000, and his newspaper The Eastern Door. Five years ago, the paper exposed a controversial plan by the local Mohawk council to evict non-native people — work that earned the paper the prestigious Michener Award and international praise.

The plan was abandoned, but tensions have continued in Kahnawake, and The Eastern Door has doggedly reported on them.

"People have taken it upon themselves to try and enforce the spirit of what they call Mohawk Law," where only native people live in the community, Bonspiel said. It's having a dramatic impact on the readers of The Eastern Door, even if the rest of the world has stopped paying attention.

"I don't think community newspapers get their due," Bonspiel told me. He's right.

Until yesterday, I'd never heard of the Daily Breeze. But

I had heard of the latest CBC job cuts, which will impact small communities across the country. I had heard of two community papers closing in B.C. I know all about the falling revenue of major media companies, shrinking staff and rising pressure to pump out stories.

Investigative, long-term work, like that of the Daily Breeze and The Eastern Door, isn't economical. It takes time. It takes money. But it is crucial to communities large and small. And in many of the country's 1,000 community newspapers, it's kept alive by sheer force of will.

"You don't get into this job to make money, that's for sure," Bonspiel said. Nowhere is that more true than in community journalism, where salaries, by the estimates of Ottawa-based community newspaperman Joe Banks, start at about \$32,000.

"It is my dream job; it is what I love to do," Bonspiel told me. Bonspiel could doubtless make better money doing something else. Presumably, one of the Daily Breeze's Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists already is. Rob Kuznia was reportedly having trouble paying rent on his newspaper salary, so he recently took a job in PR.

I don't blame him, but it's certainly a loss for his readers and it underlines just how lucky we all are when people like Bonspiel choose to keep making a difference over making a decent buck.

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Writer's latest about 'me, me, me'

TONI MORRISON

Novel written like a modern fairy tale

Toni Morrison has written 11 novels and won all the great prizes, but found herself struggling with her new book, *God Help the Child*.

Much of her work, from *Beloved* to *Jazz*, has been set in the distant past. But she placed *God Help the Child* in a time so close, the present, she wasn't sure at first how to define it.

"It's very self-referential. One of the major things that is going on is 'Me. Me. Me, me, me. Look at me. Look at my picture. Look at my novel. I write about myself. Look at my story,'" she said during a recent interview at her downtown Manhattan apartment. "Don't get me wrong. Some of it is very good. But it's not an invention of something you don't know. It's about yourself."

There are no stand-ins for Morrison in her novel, no one who lives even remotely like the world famous, 84-year-old Nobel laureate. She has instead written a modern fairy tale, with one-name characters, magical traits and transformations and questions about race and love and how to lift the curse of self-involvement.

Bride, a blue-black woman so dark that her light-skinned mother, Sweetness, is frightened of her, is a cosmetics entrepreneur haunted by a terrible misdeed from childhood:



While Toni Morrison's latest effort is self-referential, in general she encourages writers to stretch the imagination and write about something that they don't understand. GETTY IMAGES

With her mother's encouragement, she wrongfully accused a schoolteacher of sexually abusing her. Meanwhile, Bride's errant lover, Booker, has never recovered from the murder of his brother at the hands of a trusted adult, the presumed "nicest man in the world."

Bride and Booker cannot escape their troubles, or themselves. Booker is too traumatized to sustain a long-term relationship, while Bride is so crippled by doubt and self-

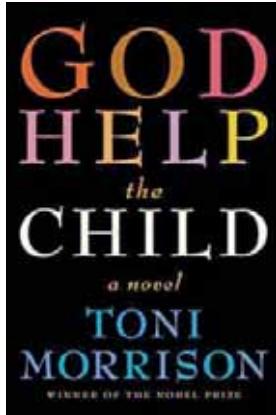
loathing her breasts disappear. "Memory is the worst thing about healing," Bride observes.

Morrison believes her job as a writer is to upend conventional thinking, whether about race (a social construct, she calls it), or happiness. Romantic love or professional fulfilment is the ideal resolution for most stories; Morrison favours the "acquisition of knowledge." Sweetness, for instance, has been an irresponsible mother, but at least she can acknowledge it.

Born in Lorain, Ohio, in 1931, Morrison has been a compulsive reader since childhood. She taught for several years at her alma mater, Howard University, before joining Random House in the mid-1960s as an editor when she was virtually the only black woman in the industry—a percentage that has hardly budged over the decades. She was also a single mother who worked in her spare time on what became her debut novel, *The Bluest Eye*, released in 1970.

Over the next 20 years, she rose to the very top of the literary world, winning a National Book Critics Circle for the 1977 novel *Song of Solomon*, a Pulitzer Prize in 1988 for *Beloved* and the Nobel in 1993. One of her secrets, she says, is her "invisible ink," the ability to convey a message without preaching, like withholding her characters' skin colour in *Paradise*.

Only by freeing herself from the "white gaze," the "little crit-



ic that sits on your shoulder," could the invisible ink flow.

"There was this language and this culture and these people, and I could speak to them in the same way Tolstoy wrote about Russians," she says. "I've always thought this is not cutting out the white reader. This is just being the writer who can focus on this culture and these people and make everything in it relevant to anyone."

Writing is Morrison's path to outside of herself, but it's undertaken alone, in her imagination: The Civil War era in *Beloved*, the 1920s in *Jazz*, colonial times in *A Mercy*. A professor emeritus at Princeton University, she remembers telling her creative writing students, "I don't want to hear about your little lives. You don't know nothing." Instead, she would assign them stories about other times, other people. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Charlotte Brontë's famous line "Reader, I married him," is considered a feminist statement for its time. AFP

SHORT STORIES

Collection marks 200 years since Brontë's birth

"Reader, I married him." That famous line from Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* is to be the jumping-off point for a collection of short stories due for release in 2016, marking 200 years since the author's birth.

Tracy Chevalier (Girl With a Pearl Earring) will edit the anthology, which will feature contributions from British and North American female writers including Helen Dunmore (*A Spell of Winter*), Susan Hill (*The Woman in Black*), Emma Donoghue (*Room*), Audrey Niffenegger (*The Time Traveler's Wife*) and Jane Gardam (*Old Fifth*).

Reader, I married him, in which 'him' refers to the character Mr. Rochester, is the most famous line in Brontë's 1847 novel and much meaning has been assigned to it.

The short, declarative sentence is described as the romantic turning point in the novel, one that points it toward a Victorian happy ending, but also as a feminist statement for its time, suggesting it was Jane who decided to marry Mr. Rochester and not the other way around.

Chevalier said: "Charlotte Brontë emerged from the most unlikely of places — a small

parsonage in an isolated Yorkshire village — to become a celebrated author in an era when women were not encouraged to express themselves publicly or to be ambitious. Women writers owe her and her sisters a lot for kicking open that door."

The short story collection, which will be named for the famous line, is one of several plans in place to mark the 200th anniversary of Brontë's birth on April 21, 1816. Among them, Chevalier is to curate an exhibition called *I Shall Go Off Like a Bombshell* starting in February at the Brontë Society

and Brontë Parsonage Museum in Haworth, West Yorkshire.

A touring exhibition called *Celebrating Charlotte* will also be shown at the National Portrait Gallery in London and the Morgan Library and Museum in New York.

Closer to the events, the website bronte200.org will gather information about the bicentenary activities. For now, Brontë fans can join the mailing list of the Brontë Society for news of bicentennial activities for Charlotte and her siblings: Branwell (2017), Emily (2018) and Anne (2020). AFP

Sweet! Making cocktail bitters is easy

SPIRITS

DIY infusions let you choose the flavours

Feeling bitter? Get in line. These days anyone who takes their drinking seriously is getting intimate with bitters.

Fuelled largely by the hard liquor and artisanal cocktail booms, bitters — those astringent, potent flavour enhancers added by the drop to cocktails — have become a big business.

Ten years ago you'd have been challenged to find much beyond those ubiquitous Angostura and Peychaud's bitters. Today, bitters are made with everything from celery and rhubarb to Mexican chocolate and Colonial-era spice blends.

Yet even with this delicious abundance, it's OK to want more. The good news is that custom bitters are easy to crank out in your own kitchen.

But first, a bitter primer. Bitters often are described as the salt of the cocktail world. A drop added to a drink — and sometimes food — doesn't just add flavour, it heightens, highlights and ties together all the other ingredients, as well. Most bitters are made by distilling herbs, seeds, roots and other ingredients. The result is a thin liquid with — Surprise! — a bitter or bittersweet taste and a robust aroma.

Custom bitters are easy to crank out in your own kitchen. Here are two techniques, one that works in about 30 minutes, another that takes a few days. It really just depends on how much time you've got.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



1 Ingredients

As the name suggests, at least one of your ingredients should have a bitter (or astringent) flavour. Citrus peel is ideal for this. I generally use just the thin zest layer of the peel from oranges or limes, though I once used whole kumquats. You also could use rhubarb, cranberries, fresh basil or mint. Whole produce, such as kumquats, should be scored with a knife.

Next, pick something sweet. Usually, some sort of fruit is helpful here, such as lemon or lime slices, cherries, apples, berries or mango. Anything large should be chopped.

Now, grab something spicy. Cinnamon, star anise, black peppercorns, cumin and nutmeg

are all delicious. If you like a little heat, consider adding a hot pepper.

The important thing is to select flavours and ingredients that you like and that you think will work together. It also helps if you have a cocktail or spirit in mind when making your bitters. I'm a fan of the classic old fashioned made with bourbon. I don't add much sugar to my drink, but I do like sweetly fruity bitters, so I often go with flavours such as cranberry-orange-cinnamon. Sometimes I add a vanilla bean.

Finally, you need vodka. You will be using all of these ingredients to infuse the vodka, which ultimately will become the bitters. Don't go top shelf for the vodka; just grab a jug of the cheap stuff.

2 Slow method

Place your infusion ingredients — the bitter, sweet and spicy ingredients you've chosen — in a glass quart jar with a tight-fitting lid. How much? Depends. For citrus, use the full zest of 3 to 4 pieces of fruit. For cranberries, rhubarb or herbs, use about 2 cups. The good news is that it's really hard to use too much, so when in doubt, add more. Remember, the finished product will only be used a few drops at a time.

Once your ingredients are in the jar, lightly mash them with a wooden spoon, then add enough vodka to fill it. Screw on the lid, shake, then walk away. Whenever you think of it during the next three or four days, give it a shake. After the infusion has sat for that time, strain it, squeezing the solids to get as much liquid as possible. Discard the solids.

Place the infused vodka in a small saucepan and simmer until reduced by half. Let it cool, then bottle it and refrigerate. Done. Use a few drops in your next cocktail. The bitters will keep in the refrigerator for a month.



3 Fast method

Ready for fun with science? This is where we get to use the boiling point of alcohol — a low 176 F — to our advantage.

First, heat a large pot of water to 176 F. Use a candy thermometer hooked to the side of the pot to monitor this. Now dump all of the ingredients outlined in the slow method above into a heat-safe plastic bag (the bags used by vacuum sealers are a good choice), pressing out as much air as possible. Submerge the bag in the warm water. In a few minutes (depending on the temperature of your ingredients), you'll see the vodka in the bag bubbling gently. Let it do that for about 10 minutes. Remove the bag from the water and let it cool for another 15 or so minutes. Strain and reduce as described in the slow method. Done. Almost instant cocktail bitters. The bitters will keep in the refrigerator for a month.



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Pouring maple syrup on your flapjacks is one thing. Drinking the stuff is a whole different story.

While whisky purists may turn up their noses, the popularity of infused brown spirits is creating more buzz than how old Harrison Ford looks in the latest Star Wars trailer.

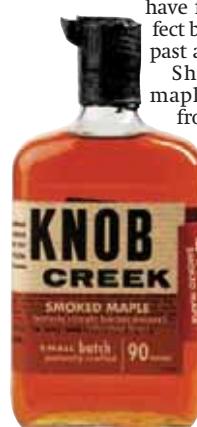
Granted, Scotch whisky enthusiasts have less to worry about. The pedigree and personality of their tipple of choice doesn't typically lend itself to manipulation.

All other whiskies, especially the lighter Canadian and more rambunctious American versions, are fair game for flavouring.

Though many can come across as overbearing, Knob Creek's Smoked Maple Bourbon (\$43.49 - \$45.99) seems to have found that perfect balance between past and present.

She smells like maple, but the upfront smoke massages it just enough so that in the mouth she stays true to her origins.

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Dos Caminos Grilled Mexican Street Corn. CONTRIBUTED

Grill and roast veggies for true Mexican style

AUTHENTIC CUISINE

A healthy and delicious take on fave dishes

Eva Kis
Metro | New York

The Mexican food that Dos Caminos chef Ivy Stark saw on a recent trip south of the U.S. border didn't feature many of the ingredients we expect.

"I want to dispel the myth that melted cheese and sour cream are authentic Mexican

food," she says.

Cheese, in fact, is a rarity. Another missing "staple" on every menu here: quesadillas as we know them.

What you do get is cuisine rich with vegetables, which are cheaper than meat. Sauces are made with roasted veggies, spices and sometimes nuts.

After her trip, Stark created a whole new, healthier menu for her restaurants, and shared with us the tips on how you can capture authentic flavors in dishes.

Stark revamped her guacamole for the new menu, giving it a smoky depth of flavor with roasted jalapeno peppers. "Roasting is a really good technique because it concentrates the flavour," she says.

Replacing flour tortillas with corn saves calories, makes the dish gluten-free and cuts out any potential hydrogenated oil. Cook it on a griddle to crisp it up instead of frying it.

Charring can cause carcinogens to form on meat and fish, but you can still grill vegetables like corn and asparagus. "Grilling is also a really good technique, especially if you're looking to not use any fat," she says. "It's really delicious for corn, squash — everything tastes good on the grill because you get that smokiness against the sweetness of the vegetables. And it's easy!"

WORD OF MOUTH

Pomegranates and dates a power couple

NUTRI-BITES

Theresa Albert
myfriendinfood.com

Remember when food combining was a big thing? The mostly debunked theory was that you can only digest one macronutrient at a time.

New evidence shows that combining specific foods enhances their powers. In one study, the combination of pomegranate and dates had a potent cholesterol lowering effect. Go figure, nature may know something.

Here are some tips on working these artery cleaners into your day:

- To peel a pomegranate, cut in half and immerse into a bowl of cool water. The fibres will fall away and the seeds will float.

- Dates are a fresh fruit that dry on the tree so they should be stored in the fridge.

- Top a Greek salad with a handful of both.

- Make a martini with pomegranate juice rimmed with date sugar.

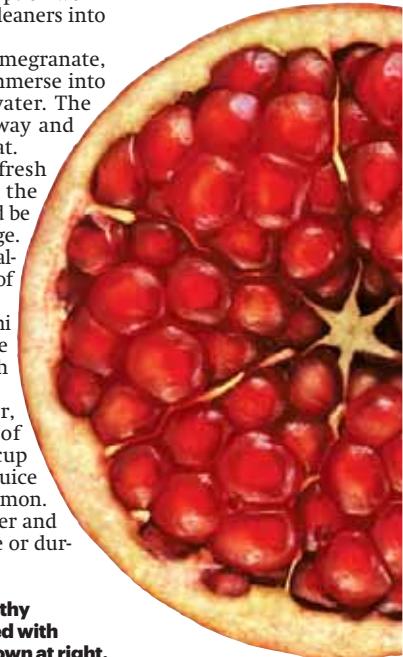
- In a blender, combine 1 cup of pitted dates, 1/2 cup of pomegranate juice and a tsp of cinnamon. Store in the freezer and enjoy 1 tsp before or dur-

ing vigorous exercise to refuel.

- Think savoury dishes. Pomegranate is a good alternative liquid when red wine is called for in a recipe.

- Dates are great in pilafs and rice dishes paired with nuts.

What grows together, goes together is a culinary concept that will help you combine foods for flavour and, over time, science may just confirm the adage. THERESA IS AN ON-CAMERA FOOD AND HEALTH EXPERT, NUTRITIONIST AND WRITER WHO WANTS YOU TO BE IN THE KNOW.



Dates pack a healthy punch when paired with pomegranate, shown at right.

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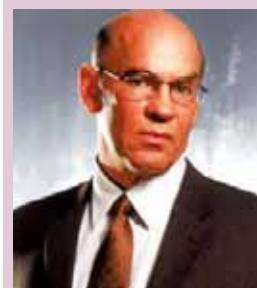
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TV NEWS**Skinner joining Mulder and Scully on new X-Files**

Veteran X-Files actor Mitch Pileggi is slated to return for the upcoming Fox event series, according to a tweet from the actor late Monday night.

Pileggi, who played FBI boss Walter Skinner, appeared in more than 80 episodes of the original series, and both feature films. Shooting is due to start this summer but further details have yet to be announced. AFP



Mitch Pileggi as Walter Skinner. CONTRIBUTED

Wes Craven bringing work to the small screen
Horror maven Wes Craven is working on some haunting new television series after inking a first-look deal with Universal Cable Productions, a top executive from the studio announced Monday.

Craven, the mastermind behind the Scream franchise and Nightmare on Elm Street, is adapting his 1991 film The People Under the Stairs as well as Daryl Gregory's 2014 novel We Are All Completely Fine for Syfy.

AFP

RuPaul does Good Work

INTERVIEW

The drag world's queen dishes on show, plastic surgery



Ned Ehrbar

RuPaul has never been one to shy away from a tough topic, and now is no different. The reigning queen of the drag world — already busy hosting Drag Race on Logo and judging Skin Wars on GSN — has yet another show on the air now: Good Work, an E! series that tackles plastic surgery with the help of Dr. Terry Dubrow (Botched) and Sandra Vergara (as in Sofia's sister).

With what you've seen so far on Good Work, how has it changed your own opinions or perceptions about plastic surgery?

It's actually enhanced my love of plastic surgery. I've always been obsessed with transformation, with the idea of creating your own persona, with the idea of becoming the creation of your own imagination.

It's the most powerful thing you can do. And whatever you want to do, whatever your imagination leads to, I have no judgment on it. I'm like, thumbs up to anybody who's going to take matters into their own hands. But of course, you have to be informed, and most people

are not informed. That's why we've created this dialogue on the show, and hopefully it will create a dialogue for people around the world who see this show.

What did you think of the recent passing of plastic surgeon Dr. Fredric Brandt (one of the early adopters of Botox, with many celebrity clients, Brandt committed suicide earlier this month.)

When most people uncover life's cruel hoax, which is that none of this is real — and most people cannot hear that — by the way, but I'm going to say it out loud: none of this is real. When beautiful, light, gorgeous souls understand that, it's very disheartening. And I've got to tell you, that is an option.

Nobody wants to hear it and nobody will say it out loud, but I will. You can always hit the eject button. No judgment. Especially if you are a sweet, sweet, sensitive soul, it becomes too much. This world is completely f-ed up if you take it at face value, if you take it seriously. It's completely bonkers.

You need friends around you to say, "Remember, this is just a dream. It's a joke, don't take it too seriously." So God bless him. But in our culture, there is such a taboo around what he did, but you know what? It's an option. It is an option with the bulls — that you have to put up with.

Is this show going to have kind of special language that Drag Race has developed?

Well, we are gay, so we have a special lingo for everything. Here's the thing, for gay people who have looked through the looking glass and seen the other side — you have to lighten everything up. People who have discovered life's twisted hoax find refuge in the irreverent and in the kooky and in the twist of a phrase. You twist a phrase the right way and my nipples get hard.

You've been doing such a great job doling out life advice on Twitter. Any advice for recent news makers like, for instance, Hillary Clinton?

Well see, I don't give advice unless that person asks me, you know? I do love Hillary Clinton, can't wait to vote for her. It's interesting, when you really look through the looking glass and you understand who we are as a race of people and how primitive we are and how our culture is so cruel to women, our culture is just awful to women. Here's this brilliant, brilliant woman, and she has to put up with all this catty bulls—. And you know what?

We're so blind, it's so engrained in our culture, we don't even realize we're doing that stuff.



RuPaul's newest show is Good Work, an E! series that tackles plastic surgery.

GETTY IMAGES

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LEGALLY UNCOUPLING

Paltrow, Martin finalize divorce

Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin are officially uncoupling after the actress filed for divorce.

Paltrow cited irreconcilable differences for the breakup of her marriage to Martin after more than 11 years.

In her filing Monday, the actress writes that the couple separated in May 2013.

Paltrow and the Coldplay frontman were married in December 2003 and have two children together. Paltrow is seeking joint custody.

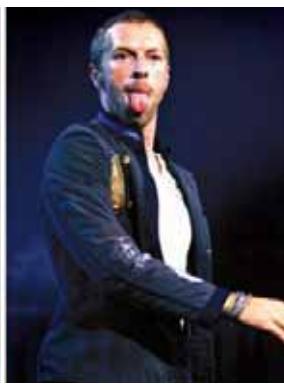
In March 2014, the pair an-

nounced they were separating and undergoing a process called "conscious uncoupling."

The announcement on Paltrow's lifestyle website, Goop, drew attention to the term. It was coined by Los Angeles therapist and author Katherine Woodward Thomas, who has created a five-step "Conscious Uncoupling" process online.

Paltrow won an Oscar for her role in *Shakespeare in Love*. Martin and his band have won six Grammy Awards.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin married in 2003. GETTY IMAGES

GOSSIP NOTES

Zayn already bored of post-1D 'regular' life

Having realized that the life of regular 22-year-olds sucks — hello, student debt — Zayn Malik has decided to pursue other ventures. Namely, the former One Direction member recently met with director Gurinder Chadha (*Bend It Like Beckham*).

Chadha told Britain's Daily Mirror that Malik, who trained as an actor before joining the biggest boy band on the planet, is "staying true to his heart" by turning his attention to screen roles. Chadha is working on a Bollywood musical adaptation of her hit soccer film. METRO U.S.

Bobbi Kristina not better, says grandmother

There's some conflict among the Brown-Houston family about the condition of Whitney Houston's daughter, Bobbi Kristina. Bobby Brown told attendees at a Saturday concert she was awake from a medically induced coma after being found face-down in a bathtub in January.

But her grandmother, Cissy Houston, said yesterday that "according to the doctors she has global and irreversible brain damage and remains unresponsive." She was also told that Bobbi Kristina, 22, could remain so for the rest of her life. METRO U.S.



Zayn Malik GETTY IMAGES

Miley, Patrick bid a mutual 'Hasta la vista!'

Did it seem like Miley Cyrus and Patrick Schwarzenegger were ever really into their relationship? Between the lunches with exes (both), the Cabo San Lucas spring break spent canoodling with his buddy's girlfriend, and Miley busy doing construction or whatever, it sure seemed like the answer was no.

And now E!

is reporting that Cyrus, 22, and Schwarzenegger, 21, are taking a break. Yeah, we can't make this sound interesting. They're not even properly broken up. METRO U.S.

Rumoured S.H.I.E.L.D. spinoff taps Palicki, Blood

Adrienne Palicki and Nick Blood are finalizing deals to headline in the rumoured Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. spinoff from Marvel and ABC, says Deadline.

Palicki and Blood both joined the ABC series in Season 2, with Palicki playing Bobbi Morse — or Mockingbird — and British actor Blood portraying her former husband and mercenary, Lance Hunter. AFP

Adrienne Palicki
GETTY IMAGES



TELEVISION

The Tanner clan is back in yet another series do-over

As TV networks plunder recycling bin for old shows to revive, *Full House* must have been at the bottom of the barrel.

Or so it would seem to those gobsmacked by news that Netflix is resuscitating the 1987-95 ABC sitcom — which, even for fans, is tenderly remembered as ephemeral fluff — for 13 new episodes revisiting the Tanners of San Francisco and retitled *Fuller House*.

As the *Full House* theme song posed jauntily, "Whatever happened to predictability — the milkman, the paperboy, evening TV?"

These days, "evening TV" is gloriously unpredictable in many quarters (*Louie*, *Game of Thrones*, *Mad Men* and Netflix's own *Orange Is the New Black*, to name a bare handful).

But at the same time, television programmers are heeding the echo chamber's siren call, breathing new life (or try-

Netflix revives *Full House*



To quote D.J., oh, Mylanta! *Full House* is returning with 13 new episodes on Netflix. HANDOUT

ing) into old TV concepts refashioned as new.

Two years ago, Netflix revived the offbeat comedy *Arrested Development*, which Fox had cancelled eight years earlier.

CBS is in its fifth season of the updated *Hawaii Five-O*, whose original CBS version left the air in 1980. Last fall, TNT

cancelled *Dallas* after three seasons — and two decades after the original *Dallas* ended a 14-season run on CBS.

Let's not forget *The Odd Couple*, which premiered in February on CBS. Starring Matthew Perry and Thomas Lennon as the mismatched flatmates, it is based on the 1968 film,

which was based on the 1965 Broadway comedy, which inspired the long-running 1970 ABC sitcom (starring Jack Klugman and Tony Randall) as well as the 1982 ABC flop featuring an African-American odd couple (played by Demond Wilson and Ron Glass).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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EARTH DAY

The future is now for our planet

Earth Day is celebrating its 25th anniversary — and while it's a time to celebrate milestones, it's also a time to look ahead at what still needs to be done.



Deb Doncaster

This is a key year for environmental action, says Deb Doncaster, president of Earth Day Canada. That's why the charity is launching the Earth Day Every Day campaign with a "clean commute" focus.

A quarter of a century ago, there weren't many national environmental organizations. Earth Day, which originated in the U.S., quickly made its way into Canada and around the world — today it's active in 170 countries. Six million people participate in Earth Day across Canada every April 22, joining a billion people across the planet.

"For the last decade or so, we left it up to individual local organizations to do whatever they wanted to do on Earth Day," Doncaster says. "I think we've all agreed that it would be wise to focus our efforts around particular initiatives, to use the day to galvanize efforts and show the impact that collective action can actually have."

This year, Canada has reached the halfway mark in meeting the goals set out by the Inter-



SHUTTERSTOCK

governmental Panel on Climate Change. And the next decade is critical, Doncaster says.

"It's the decade where we're either on course to a more moderate climate impact scenario or we're on course for something more extreme."

A sign that we are moving in the right dir-

ection is that last year's global CO2 emissions didn't surpass the previous year's levels, according to the International Energy Agency.

"What's even more interesting is that the global economy grew by three per cent," Doncaster says. "That's a little glimmer of

hope — the huge investments that are being made in renewable energy and conservation are starting to have an impact. Now we have to save the forests, turn to electric vehicles and conserve energy. All of these things are doable if we have the collective will."

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To get your free tree, watch for Metro News distributors and the Zibi street team handing out trees throughout downtown Ottawa and Gatineau on Earth Day (April 22).

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CONVERSATIONS IN CLASSROOMS

ECOKIDS TOOLKIT ENGAGES CHILDREN

Earth Day Canada is asking kids to get green.

"Kids are the change-makers," says Lindsay Bunce, director of education programs with Earth Day Canada. "They have this tremendous energy and creativity. I'm always humbled by the innovation that comes out of student-based projects."

Developed by Earth Day Canada, the EcoKids School Toolkit is designed to help teachers and students (kindergarten to Grade 8) take action and engage their school community on environmental issues.

"Earth Day is a special day in schools," Bunce says. "It's an opportunity to invite students to think about their impact on the environment. It's also a celebration of a lot of the good work that's done throughout the school year."

This year, kids are being asked to "green" their commute to school by setting up "Walking Wednesdays" or joining a "bicycle train" or "walking bus" — meeting at a starting point and walking or cycling to school as

a group, picking up students along the way.

"We're focused on bringing those conversations into the classroom," Bunce says. "The other big initiative is signing the Earth Flag. We are asking schools to find a piece of fabric — it could be an old bed sheet — and sign their names."

Earth Day Canada also holds fun contests throughout the year to get kids engaged. The Staples Superpower Your School contest, for example, challenged "ecovators" to share their eco-initiatives earlier this year for a chance to win \$25,000 worth of new technology for their school.

And the EcoKids Battery Hero Art Contest, in partnership with Call2Recycle, boosts awareness around the proper way to recycle batteries. Students create a battery "superhero" who prevents batteries from filling up landfills. This year's winner was a Grade 6 student, whose battery hero will be revealed in May and will star in a new episode of Paddy the Beaver on the Kidoons Network.



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Recognizing unsung heroes

People make an impact across the country

Sustainability starts with people, yet often those people aren't recognized for their efforts.

To address this, Earth Day Canada has established the Hometown Heroes award program, recognizing and celebrating environmental leaders, groups and small businesses across the country since 2004.

"We recognize the unsung heroes at the local level who are making a huge impact in communities across the country," says Jennifer Mack, awards and recognition programs

manager with Earth Day Canada. "They're the ones who are engaging students or community members. They often aren't recognized on a national level."

The annual program, sponsored by Mill Street Brewery and the RBC Foundation, awards individuals, groups and small businesses with a cash prize toward their sustainability efforts.

This year, the program is adding a youth category. The winner will receive a \$5,000 cash

prize that can be donated to a local environmental group or cause or go toward a post-secondary scholarship.

"We're not only recognizing people for the work they do, but we're also giving them money that goes back into the community," Mack says.

A panel of community, business and environmental leaders will select this year's Hometown Heroes. Nominations are open until June 30, and the winners will be announced in the fall.

To date, Earth Day Canada has recognized 115 Hometown Heroes across Canada.

MAKE EARTH DAY EVERY DAY TO REDUCE YOUR FOOTPRINT

Earth Day is celebrated each year on April 22, but organizers want it to be Earth Day all year round. That's one reason they have launched the Earth Day Every Day campaign.

The new five-year campaign goes live this Earth Day in celebration of the charity's 25th anniversary. Earth Day Every Day encourages participants to commit "green acts" and share them online through social media for prizes.

The goal is to help Canadians reduce their

carbon footprint by 20 per cent for 2020. Today, each Canadian has a carbon footprint of about five tonnes per year.

"The transportation sector is the largest for emitting greenhouse gases at 24 per cent," says Deb Doncaster, president of Earth Day Canada.

Earth Day Every Day is designed to help the average Canadian clean their commute, reduce their personal carbon emissions and

 **Earth Day Every Day** share their acts of greenness. It's an update of the One Million Acts of Green campaign promoted by George Stroumboulopoulos, which was "extremely successful in terms of galvanizing people and making significant carbon reductions," Doncaster says.

Participants can create a profile, choose

from a range of clean commutes to reduce their carbon footprint, share their activities on social media and track their greenhouse-gas reductions on a personal dashboard — they will be recognized for hitting certain milestones. They can also see how their efforts stack up against other participants through a national carbon dashboard.

Earth Day Every Day takes place from April 22 to May 22. Learn more at EDED.ca.

What kind of transportation did you choose today?



Learn 25 ways to clean your commute at EarthDay2015.ca

You can **ACT, POST, SHARE, WIN & Sign the Earth Flag**



#EarthDayEveryDay

CONNECTING WITH BUSINESSES

Earth Day Canada doesn't just work with schools and communities, it also recognizes the importance of getting businesses — from mom-and-pop shops to large corporations — involved in sustainability efforts.

The charity creates customized programs for businesses, designed to help employees meet sustainability and conservation goals.

CN, for example, was focused on environmental stewardship, but it was looking to engage employees in those efforts, says Jo Anne Tacorda, employee engagement manager with Earth Day Canada. In 2011, Earth Day Canada partnered with CN to launch EcoConnexions, an initiative to conserve energy and reduce waste. Since then, they have trained more than 575 "eco champions," who inspire and lead the company's 24,000 employees to take action.

"Those eco champions are critical to the project," Tacorda says.

They are the people on the ground who notice if materials could be reused or recycled, or if light bulbs could be replaced with LED bulbs.

So far, more than 65 of CN's medium and large yards have officially launched the program. It has led to an average 26 per cent reduction in greenhouse gases, representing 10,643 tonnes of CO2e.

Employees have been involved in 209,000 "green acts," preventing 6,350 tonnes of greenhouse gas and diverting 90 per cent of operational waste from landfills.

EcoConnexions, winner of a Clean 50 award in 2014, is a model that other businesses can follow, Tacorda says. If done correctly, employee engagement programs help align business goals with environmental ones.



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- Available rearview camera.
- 60/40 split-folding rear seat.
- Standard variable intermittent wipers.
- Speed-sensitive stereo volume control.

MARKET POSITION

Nissan isn't just trying to get customers out of new-car competitors, but used ones, as well. The Micra is priced similarly to many pre-owned vehicles, but includes a factory warranty and may be easier for some buyers to finance.

THE COMPETITION



Mitsubishi Mirage
 Base price: \$12,498



Chevrolet Spark
 Base price: \$12,145



Toyota Yaris
 Base price: \$16,015

the luxury goodies for \$10,000, and at that level, you'll have to crank up the windows by hand, adjust the manual mirrors using a little joystick on each window frame, and unlock the doors with the key.

You do get a tilt steering column, CD stereo with auxiliary input jack, carpeted floor mats, a 12-volt power outlet, digital clock, and a split-folding rear seat.

Although the Micra's 1.6-litre four-cylinder engine makes just 109 horsepower, this is a surprisingly fun little car to pilot. It feels quick and peppy, the shifter is smooth, it responds immediately to steering input, and it drives better than many cars that cost considerably more.

Now, for all that, it isn't that great a car to drive on the highway. It's noisy and the seats don't stay comfortable for very long, and with my seating position, I found that my leg quickly got cramped on the

throttle, since I didn't have the luxury of cruise control.

I'm more than willing to forgive it, however, since the Micra isn't meant to be a highway hauler.

Instead, it's an inexpensive machine that's sized and built for the city, and that feels and works better than its price.

If you don't need frills to be happy, take this one for a drive.

Now, you're not getting all

the luxury goodies for \$10,000, and at that level, you'll have to crank up the windows by hand, adjust the manual mirrors using a little joystick on each window frame, and unlock the doors with the key.

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GEAR

Type of sunglasses matter when it comes to driving

AUTO PILOT

Mike Goetz



Now I know ZZ Top wants you to go out and get some cheap sunglasses, but don't do it! Especially if you plan on using them for driving.

Driving presents a set of vision challenges not met by all sunglasses, particularly by cheap ones, and particularly by those darker-than-dark shades that the Texas rockers wore on stage, and

during MTV videos, throughout the 1980s.

You want a lighter tint to your driving shades, say the experts. Sunglass tint density is rated on a class scale of 0-4, with Class 0 being absolutely clear, and Class 4 being more or less black paint. Each of the classes allow different percentages of light to enter your eyes, and the darker ones just won't let you see well enough behind the wheel.

And remember that UV protection, which you want and need, is not related to tint. Cheap sunglasses can be low on UV protec-

tion; might as well go with 98-100 per cent UV protection, which is available on even moderately priced glasses.

The experts also say that drivers should stay away from certain tint colours, specifically pink, blue and green (unless they are especially designed for driving, and have a "safe for driving" label). These tints don't allow you to distinguish red as easily, and as you know, red is extremely important for driving — almost as important as green.

Sunglasses that are precisely designed for driving typically

have an amber or brown tint, which are good at creating greater contrast, because they eliminate blue tones. Our eyes aren't crazy about blue tones.

Our eyes don't like light overdose either, which is basically "glare." Sunglasses can come with or without "polarizing," which eliminates glare. Go for polarized glasses, because drivers are subjected to lots of incidences of glare, when the light bounces off the metal of other cars, and off the snow and water on and by the road.

More advice from the experts:

don't get wide or oversized frames as they hinder peripheral vision; wraparound frames prevent glare from entering your eyes from the side; variable tint sunglasses won't work properly in a car, because the windshield already blocks 40 per cent of UV light, and that will delay or restrict the automatic tinting; graduated lens that are lighter on the bottom make it easier for drivers to see their dash instruments and controls.

Of course you can be assured of getting all the attributes we discussed by going with pair of

sunglasses designed expressly for driving. Oakley, Maui Jim, and Serengeti are three makes known for their high-end driving sunglasses.

I can only speak for Serengeti, which I find to be fabulous. In fact I'm on my fifth pair. I keep losing them. They're not cheap, so I'm determined not to lose another.

I now have this foolproof plan: I don't wear them. I keep them in their case, on a bookshelf, in my office. Sure, I don't use them as intended, but I always know where they are.

Toyota's hydrogen car already a hit

PRODUCTION

1,500 orders in first month

Just months after the Mirai hydrogen car's debut, Toyota says it will more than triple production of the ultra high-tech sedan. However, production will increase to only about 3,000 units in 2017 from current levels of about 700 a year. Toyota revealed the expansion in light of the 1,500 orders received in the first month of Mirai sales in Japan, and launches planned this year in the United States and Europe.



TEXT AND IMAGES BY WHEELBASE MEDIA

ENGINES

Ford hits 5m Eco builds

Ford recently built its five millionth EcoBoost gasoline engine since the line launched in 2009. The engines, Ford said, were in one of every four of its vehicles sold in Europe last year, with the most popular unit being the 1.0-litre three-cylinder version. The five millionth vehicle was a 1.0-litre Ford Focus that rolled off the assembly line at the Michigan Assembly Plant in Wayne, Mich.



DESIGN

New NSX shows touches of tech

Acura says it will begin taking orders this summer for its new-generation NSX hybrid supercar, with deliveries expected to begin later in the year.

Built exclusively in the United States at a dedicated facility in Marysville, Ohio, the sleekly styled NSX will sport a twin turbocharged V6 engine with a nine-speed paddle-shift transmission and three electric motors, all within a rigid, lightweight multi-material body.

The exterior body design has been fashioned for "total airflow management" for both stability-enhancing downforce and vehicle systems cooling. Anchored by a carbon-fibre floor, the body uses a space frame design, an internal frame constructed of aluminum, ultra-high strength steel and other advanced materials that give it both high strength and weight savings.



SALES

California may cut e-cars tax

California's Legislature is considering a bill that would cut the sales tax on environmentally benign vehicles sold in the state to 3.06 per cent from the current level of 7.5 per cent, the Los Angeles Times reported. Reducing the sales tax on hybrid vehicles sounds like incentive for buyers to be green, but what about on a million-dollar car like a Ferrari La Ferrari?

It might technically be a hybrid, but should money be given to help buy a near-1,000-horsepower sports car?



IMPROVEMENT

New vehicles more efficient than ever: EPA

Automakers exceeded U.S. government targets for improving fuel economy and reducing tailpipe emissions by "a wide margin" for the second consecutive year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said.

Vehicles sold in the U.S. are the most fuel efficient they've ever been, averaging 24.1 miles (38.8 kilometres) per U.S. gallon in 2013, a 0.5-mpg increase from the previous model year, the government agency said.

THE GREEN ANGLE

Metro's weekly picks for the latest in environmental news



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Jaguar XK, XKR give sleek ride

USED VEHICLE

Battery in 2007 to 2014 models may need extra care

Launched for model year 2007, the Jaguar XK is a classy coupe or convertible four-seater with standard V8 power, upscale design and feature content, and a lavish and luxurious cabin finished with top-line leather, wood and metallic trim.

Start your test drive looking for signs of warning lights and messages in the XK's instrument cluster, which could be the result of a poorly charged battery. Low battery voltage can cause a world of issues in a car like the XK that's not typically driven daily, so be sure to invest in a battery 'trickle charger' to keep the battery topped up. A Jaguar mechanic should investigate any warning lights or messages ahead of your purchase.

Be on the lookout for soggy carpeting, excessive condensation on interior windows, and other signs of a water leak, which could be caused by plugged or damaged drain tubes. In many cases, a plugged drain tube can be cleared with a few blasts of compressed air.

On a convertible, run the power top through its positions several times, and check all rubber seals for cracking, damage or missing pieces.

Confirm proper operation of the navigation system, noting a calibration procedure may be necessary if the system doesn't seem to be able to locate the car on the map.

Finally, as the XK and XKR are performance cars designed for hard driving, have a mechanic check the condition and level of all fluids, the tires, and the brakes. JUSTIN PRITCHARD



Features

A driver computer, Bluetooth, automatic lights and climate control, push-button engine start and motorized memory seats. The XK is an ideal used-ride choice for someone after a high-performance car with an eye for gorgeous looks, potent acceleration, and all-around comfort.

Engines

All copies of the Jaguar XK got standard V8 power, rear wheel-drive and automatic transmission. From 2009 and on, a 5-litre V8 was standard, and a supercharged variant powered the high-performance XKR and XKR-S variants. Prior to 2009, look for Jaguar's 4.2 litre V8. Output in a newer XKR is rated at 510 horsepower.

What owners like

Owners rave about the XK's performance, silky smooth V8 power, gorgeous exhaust note, relative ease of entry and exit, and relatively easy to drive character. Though the XK and XKR are capable of thrilling performance, they're remarkably docile to drive gently, too.

What owners dislike

Common complaints include tiny rear seats, limited cargo space, a sometimes hard-to-read central navigation screen, and a rough ride in models with larger wheels.

The verdict

If your budget allows it, your safest bet in a used XK or XKR is a dealer-serviced model sold through a certified pre-owned program. An XK will be the most affordable to fuel, maintain and insure, though buying a used model without a mechanical check-over by a trained Jaguar mechanic, as a minimum, is not advised.

We need to talk.

ED HAND
10am-1pm

1310 News
News. Talk. Sports.

Special Delivery: Escape

What test car is Garry bringing us this week? We literally have no clue what he's bringing us until it lands in our driveway, but who are we to doubt Garry Sowerby, who has a bazillion Guinness records for around-the-world driving? That's a bazillion more than we have, after all. Come along and find out as we drive 'em, dirty 'em and shoot 'em with our phone cams. These are real-life, no-glam reviews.

JEFF MELNYCHUK WHEELBASE MEDIA

Shortly after Garry dropped off the Ford Escape, I posted a picture of it on my Facebook page.

My buddy Chad from Edmonton chimed right in with the usual concern from men about this category of vehicle.

"Don't you find it a bit girly?"

Chad still has the previous Escape, which is squarer and, according to Chad, a heckuvalot more hairy-chested.

It doesn't really matter to him that the current Escape rides and drives better than the previous version — like a sack of hammers, by comparison — nor does it matter that the interior comfort and technology takes actual human beings into account. Nope, Chad is fixated on the new model's apparent lack of a Y chromo-



The 2015 Ford Escape is a compact SUV. FORD



The Ford Escape features a roomy interior. WHEELBASE MEDIA



There's lots to see and do in the Ford Escape. WHEELBASE MEDIA

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// Research and Compare to find the vehicle that's right for your Lifestyle

some, its "soccer-mom" looks and oh-so-petite size.

Gender appeal

I could argue against that notion all day long, easily, but it doesn't matter. I'm not the one the automakers with entries in this category need to convince. They need to convince Chad, who thinks that in their quest to cater more to women buyers that they may well have forgotten about men. Entirely.

For him, it's either something like an Escape or a 4x4 pickup or full-size sport utility with little else in between other than perhaps a GMC Terrain. The only curves there are the tires.

Me, I'm more of a towny, so I'm cool with the Escape's aptitude for shimmying around snow-narrowed lanes during the winter. The Escape still holds a hockey team, minus the goalie, and it can be prettied up with enough leather and technology to make you think you're richer than you are.

Under the hood

The \$36,000 "Titanium" test car that Garry delivered is equipped with the top engine option of the three, which is the turbocharged 2.0-litre four-cylinder with 240 horsepower. There's a smaller 1.6-litre turbo engine (178 horsepower), as well as a base 2.5 non-turbo (168 horsepower).

There's a price to pay at the pump if you're a stab-and-steer dummy like me. I'm pretty

sure I saw the fuel gauge actually dropping while driving, which had me thinking that someone might have been siphoning it out at red lights. I really wonder about "Eco-boost" and whether a small V6 would be better, smoother and cheaper to run.

In Sync

Otherwise, the Escape has very few knocks, even though the dash is clearly stamped with the warning label "Sync ... powered by Microsoft."

The Sync system has been absolutely pulverized in the media over the years with cracks like "you really need to pull over to turn up the stereo volume." (I just made that one up now.)

In this case, the primary functions, such as fan speed, aren't buried in layers of menus to distract you from driving, so other than figuring out how to change the music station, it's pretty easy. So far.

Luckily, I have two weeks to figure this out since Garry is about to drop off another Ford to test. Maybe Chad will think this one is more manly.

LET'S TALK

WOW: Ride and drive and engine pep; all the practical stuff; Sync works; loves gas if your foot loves speed; spaceship-y dash layout; fun powertrain with AWD.



Cargo space can be had in the Ford Escape. WHEELBASE MEDIA

HMM: It's pretty, but not pretty manly; a bit counterintuitive as some knobs, symbols and functions don't do what you think they do; auto-parallel-park takes more practice/time than actually learning to parallel park.

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SL AWD Premium model shown[▲]

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1.8 SL model shown[▲]



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*Equivalent lease payments of \$64/\$38/\$29 on the 2015 Rogue/2015 Sentra/2015 Micra must be made on a monthly basis and cannot be made weekly. Weekly lease payments are for informational purposes only. [†]The \$500/\$750/\$750/\$750 additional cash discount offer is valid on the purchase financing or lease (at inception) of all new 2015 Micra SV and SR trims/2015 Sentra/2015 Rogue/2015 Juke. \$500/\$750/\$750/\$750 is comprised of \$350/\$500/\$500/\$500 NCF cash and \$150/\$250/\$250/\$250 dealer participation. Offer is available to eligible customers for a limited time from April 6 – 30, 2015 on approved credit only. Offer is based on stackable trading dollars. The discount will be deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. Applicable to Nissan Canada Finance (NCF) contracts only through subvented and standard NCF finance rates or subvented NCF lease rates. Not combinable with fleet discounts and not applicable to cash purchase buyers. Offer not eligible for program protection. Certain conditions apply. Offer is administered by Nissan Canada Extended Services Inc. (NCESI) and applies to any new 2015 Micra/Versa Note/Sentra/Altima/Juke/Rogue/Pathfinder models (each, an "Eligible Model") leased and registered through Nissan Canada Financial Services Inc., on approved credit, between April 6 – 30, 2015 from an authorized Nissan retailer in Canada. Eligible only on leases through NCF with subvented rates. Offer recipient will be entitled to receive a maximum of six (6) service visits (each, a "Service Visit") for the Eligible Vehicle – where each Service Visit consists of one (1) oil change (using conventional 5W30 motor oil) and one (1) tire rotation service (each, an "Eligible Service"). All Eligible Services will be conducted in strict accordance with the Oil Change and Tire Rotation Plan outline in the Agreement Booklet for the Eligible Vehicle. The service period ("Service Period") will commence on the lease transaction date ("Transaction Date") and will expire on the earlier of: (i) the date on which the maximum number of Service Visits has been reached; (ii) 36 months from the Transaction Date; or (iii) when the Eligible Vehicle has reached 48,000 kilometers. All Eligible Services must be completed during the Service Period, otherwise they will be forfeited. The Offer may be upgraded to use premium oil at the recipient's expense. The Eligible Services are not designed to meet all requirements and specifications necessary to maintain the Eligible Vehicle. To see the complete list of maintenance necessary, please refer to the Service Maintenance Guide. Any additional services required are not covered by the Offer and are the sole responsibility and cost of the recipient. Offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain offers. NCESI reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. Additional conditions and limitations apply. Ask your retailer for details. [‡]Representative monthly lease offer based on any new 2015 Rogue S FWD CVT transmission (Y6RG15 AA00)/2015 Sentra 1.8 S Manual Transmission (C4LG55 AA00)/2015 Micra S 5MT (S5LG55 AA00). 1.99%/0.9%/4.99% lease APR for a 60/60/60 month term equals monthly payments of \$277/\$167/\$127 with \$0/\$0/\$998 down payment, and \$0 security deposit are due at lease inception. Prices and payments include freight and fees. Lease based on a maximum of 20,000 km/year with excess charged at \$0.10/km. Total lease obligation is \$16,605/\$10,007/\$8,616. \$250/\$560 dealer participation included on 2015 Micra S 5MT (S5LG55 AA00)/2015 Sentra 1.8 S Manual Transmission (C4LG55 AA00) included in the advertised payments. These offers are only valid from April 6 – April 30, 2015. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Conditions apply. [•]Models shown \$36,732/\$25,999/\$18,349 Selling price for a new 2015 Rogue SL AWD Premium (Y6DG15 BK00)/2015 Sentra 1.8 SL (C4TG15 AA00)/2015 Micra[®] 1.6 SR 4AT (SSSG75 AA00). ^{**}Freight and PDE charges (\$1.750/\$1.567/\$1.567) air-conditioning levy (\$100) where applicable, applicable fees (all which may vary by region), manufacturer's rebate and dealer participation where applicable are included. License, registration, insurance and applicable taxes are extra. Lease offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers except stackable trading dollars. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers, prices and features subject to change without notice. Offers valid between April 6 – 30, 2015. For more information see IIHS.org. ALG is the industry benchmark for residual values and depreciation data, www.alg.com. Offers subject to change, continuation or cancellation without notice. Offers have no cash alternative value. See your participating Nissan retailer for complete details. [®]2015 Nissan Canada Inc. Nissan Financial Services Inc. is a division of Nissan Canada Inc.

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GT model shown



GT models shown



GT models shown

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metro SPORTS

QB Johnny Manziel rejoined the Cleveland Browns after a 70-day stay in rehab

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Seeking season-saving changes

NHL PLAYOFFS

Senators look to find scoring touch and avoid sweep

With his team on the brink of elimination, Ottawa Senators head coach Dave Cameron is once again considering a change in goal.

Down 3-0 to the Montreal Canadiens in their Eastern Conference quarter-final, Cameron wouldn't confirm Tuesday whether Craig Anderson would make his second straight start or if he would go back to Andrew Hammond.

Anderson, who made 47 saves in Sunday's 2-1 overtime loss in just his fifth game since Jan. 21, would seem to be the favourite to start. However, Cameron said he wanted to speak to Anderson prior to making a decision.

The Ottawa coach also needs to find a way to have his players generate offence and eliminate second-period setbacks. Montreal has scored six of its nine goals in the middle stanza and Cameron said that a team meeting Tuesday was spent discussing his squad's mid-game struggles.

The Senators, who finished the regular season with five 20-goal scorers, have managed only six goals over three playoff games. One player in a major slump is star forward Bobby Ryan, who hasn't scored in 16 games.

"Mentally exhausting" is a good way to put it," said Ryan.



Canadiens goaltender Carey Price makes a save against the Senators' Milan Michalek during Game 3 of their first-round playoff series at the Canadian Tire Centre on Sunday night. JANA CHYTOLOVÁ/FREESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES

"I think I've watched every game four, five times, ad nauseam, looking for opportunities and things and holes in their game and where I can generate more. Dave (Cameron) and (goalie coach Rick) Walmsley have been great for me. We all recognize it's right there, they're not dropping and there's not a lot of time left for it to turn so you hope it starts (Wednesday)

Guys aren't prepared for it to end and it would be a shame to end in that fashion.

Bobby Ryan on a potential sweep by the Habs

and continues."

Ottawa says part of the game plan for Wednesday's must-win home game is to make things more challenging for Montreal netminder Carey Price.

always bring a little more. We have a lot of chances, we work hard, we try to pay attention to a lot of details. We just need the bounces now."

Despite the challenge ahead, the Senators remain confident and say it's a matter of taking each game as it comes, much as they did during the last month of the regular season when they were battling for a playoff spot.

ROSTER NOTES

Senators

The Sens plan to use Zack Smith on a line with Mike Hoffman and Chris Neil for Game 4. Smith replaces David Legwand. Smith had just three points in 37 games this past regular season.



Zack Smith
GETTY IMAGES

Canadiens

Defenceman Nathan Beaulieu will miss the rest of the series with an upper-body injury.

He suffered the injury after taking a hit from Ottawa's Erik Karlsson in the second period of Sunday's 2-1 overtime win.

Head coach Michel Therrien said Greg Pateryn will replace Beaulieu on the blue-line.

"Our backs were against the wall for the last 40 games or 30 games or whatever it was and the guys responded," said Ryan. "I think you draw on that experience and where we were and how every game was a must-win. Now it really is. That's the reality of the situation so we're not comfortable with it, but we're prepared for it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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IN BRIEF

IIHF head talks NHL-Olympic difficulties

International Ice Hockey Federation president Rene Fasel says it will "not be easy" to reach a deal for NHL players to compete at the 2018 Winter Olympics.

Fasel said the IIHF has started the process of consulting players and officials over a deal for the 2018 Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Fasel says "our goal is to bring the NHL to Korea," but he adds that it is a "long process" and "will not be easy." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Last runner crosses Boston finish line after 20 hours

The last athlete to complete the Boston Marathon has received his race medal.

Maickel Melamed was bestowed his award by Boston Mayor Marty Walsh at city hall on Tuesday, after completing the 26.2-mile course in about 20 hours.

The 39-year-old Venezuelan, who has a form of muscular dystrophy that severely impairs his mobility, crossed the finish line around 5 a.m.

Melamed and his team of volunteers endured torrential downpours, thunderstorms, biting wind and cold for the last few miles. They were greeted at the finish line by dozens of supporters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hawks' Budenholzer named East's top coach

Mike Budenholzer was right where he didn't want to be: the centre of attention.

There was no avoiding it. Not after leading the Atlanta Hawks to the top of the Eastern Conference.

Budenholzer was honored as the NBA coach of the year on Tuesday, an award that moved him to tears as he spoke about the people who meant so much to his career.

His players. His father. Danny Ferry. And, of course, Gregg Popovich.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Mike Budenholzer

GETTY IMAGES

THE HOCKEY NEWS

Murray
Pam
FOR METRO

On Feb. 7, the odds of the Senators earning a playoff berth were a lowly two per cent. Saddled with a 20-22-9 record and 14-point mountain to climb, the ascent seemed insurmountable. In a well-documented story the Senators bucked those odds.

However, after three first-round losses to the Canadiens, Ottawa faces those same odds, yet again. The Senators must accomplish a feat that's occurred only four times in NHL history; that is to win four straight games after trailing 3-0.

Can it be done? In the



Oh definitely, nothing is lost yet ... We still feel good about ourselves.

Erik Karlsson

words of former captain Daniel Alfredsson, "Probably not." But the current captain has other ideas. After a second overtime loss Sunday, a confident Erik Karlsson said, "Oh definitely, nothing is lost yet ... We still feel good about ourselves."

And why not, as for the past ten weeks, the Senators have been playing for their playoff lives. The club has taken on a one game at a time mentality, a mantra coach Dave Cameron preaches. What needs to change?

The Senators need to keep

their foot on the gas. They've opened the scoring in each game, outscoring the Canadiens 3-0 in first period play. What's hindering them is their inability to secure the next goal. On each occasion the Senators notched the game's first marker, the Canadiens rebounded with two goals of their own.

In fact, beyond the first 20 minutes, Les Habitants are leading 9-3 in goals — with six coming in the second frame. The

Canadiens are also outshooting the Senators 89-53 in the final 40 minutes.

The lack of secondary even-strength contributions is a bone of contention. Only Clarke MacArthur, who has a pair and Milan Michalek, which was an own-goal by Canadiens Andrei Markov, have 5-on-5 markers for the Senators.

Scoring at a 30 per cent rate, the team finally solved its

Erik Karlsson
GETTY IMAGES

power-play woes. However, the lack of opportunities, 10 in three games is an issue. To draw more penalties, the Senators need to possess a harder net drive.

The club's playoff slogan is Young and Hungry. With five players making their playoff debuts and Patrick Wiercioch playing in one prior post-season game, the Canadiens have taken advantage of a mainly inexperienced group during the game's latter stages.

Quite frankly, not much separates the two squads — each game decided by one goal, two in overtime. Win or lose, the Senators can take two valuable lessons from this series and season. Never give up and two per cent is better than no chance at all.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
BARCELONA SHOWS OFF EMBARRASSMENT OF RICHES VS. PSG

Neymar scores his second goal against Paris Saint-Germain on Tuesday at Camp Nou in Barcelona.

Neymar had already netted Barcelona's first goal in its 3-1 first-leg win in Paris — the Brazil striker struck in the 14th and 34th minutes — to crush PSG's already slim hopes of a quarter-final comeback on Tuesday. Barcelona won 2-0 on Tuesday and 5-1 on aggregate.

Barcelona's dominance of was so complete that, despite Neymar's brace, Andres Iniesta was arguably the best player on the Camp Nou pitch.

The veteran midfielder used a breathtaking solo run through the heart of the visitors' defence to set up Neymar for the opener.

JOSEP LAGO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



BAYERN VS. FC PORTO

Munich muscles its way to semifinal



Bayern's Thomas Mueller celebrates with fans on Tuesday in Munich. GUENTER SCHIFFMANN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Bayern Munich outclassed Porto 6-1 on Tuesday to reach its fourth consecutive Champions League semifinal and give coach Pep Guardiola an emphatic victory in his 100th match in charge of the German powerhouse.

Robert Lewandowski scored two goals as Bayern roared back from a 3-1 defeat in the first leg to advance 7-4 on aggregate.

Thiago Alcantara, Jerome Boateng, Thomas Mueller and Xabi Alonso also scored for Munich. Jackson Martinez scored for Porto, which finished with 10 men after Ivano Marcano was sent off in the 87th. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Royals pair reprimanded for targeting A's Lawrie

Major League Baseball suspended Kansas Royals reliever Kelvin Herrera five games and fined him and pitcher Yordano Ventura on Tuesday after both targeted Oakland third baseman Brett Lawrie during a testy series over the weekend.

Herrera was tossed in Sunday's game after throwing behind Lawrie, the second time he had thrown inside to him. Ventura was ejected a day earlier when he hit Lawrie with a 99 mph fastball above the left elbow.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Cubs' top prospect push continues

The Chicago Cubs called up highly touted infielder Addison Russell on Tuesday. The 21-year-old was slated to start at second base and bat ninth against the Pittsburgh Pirates on Tuesday night.

Russell was the centrepiece of the blockbuster trade that sent pitcher Jeff Samardzija to Oakland last summer. The 11th overall pick in the 2012 amateur draft, Russell hit .318 with four doubles and a home run for Triple-A Iowa.

Chicago called up one of its other top prospects last week in third baseman Kris Bryant.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Addison Russell in spring training. NORM HALL/GETTY IMAGES

RECIPE Italian Grilled Chicken Sandwiches with Pesto-Cheese

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com



Ready in

Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 5 minutes

Ingredients

Serves 6
 • 2 Tbsp pesto
 • 2 Tbsp light mayonnaise
 • 1/3 cup smooth ricotta cheese
 • 3 Tbsp light cream cheese, softened
 • 1/3 cup crumbled goat cheese (about 1 1/2 oz)
 • 1 whole Italian round loaf of bread (about 1 1/4 lb; about 12 inches across)
 • 8 oz skinless boneless chicken breasts (about 2 breasts), pounded flat
 • 1 roasted red pepper, thinly sliced
 • 2 cups shredded romaine lettuce
 • 2 medium plum tomatoes, sliced and seeded
 • 1/3 cup diced red onion
 • 1/3 cup chopped black olives
 • pinch of salt and pepper

Directions

1. To make the pesto-cheese sauce: combine the pesto, mayonnaise, ricotta, cream cheese and goat cheese in a food processor and purée until smooth.
2. Cut the loaf of bread in half horizontally and pull out as much of the bread as possible, leaving only the crust.



3. In a nonstick grill pan or skillet lightly coated with cooking spray, cook the chicken breast just until no longer pink, about 5 minutes. Cool, then slice thinly.

4. Spread the pesto-cheese sauce over both the bottom and the top half of the loaf. Layer the bottom half with the chicken, roasted red pepper strips, lettuce, tomatoes, onion, olives, salt and pepper. Top with the top half of the loaf and cut into 6 sandwiches.

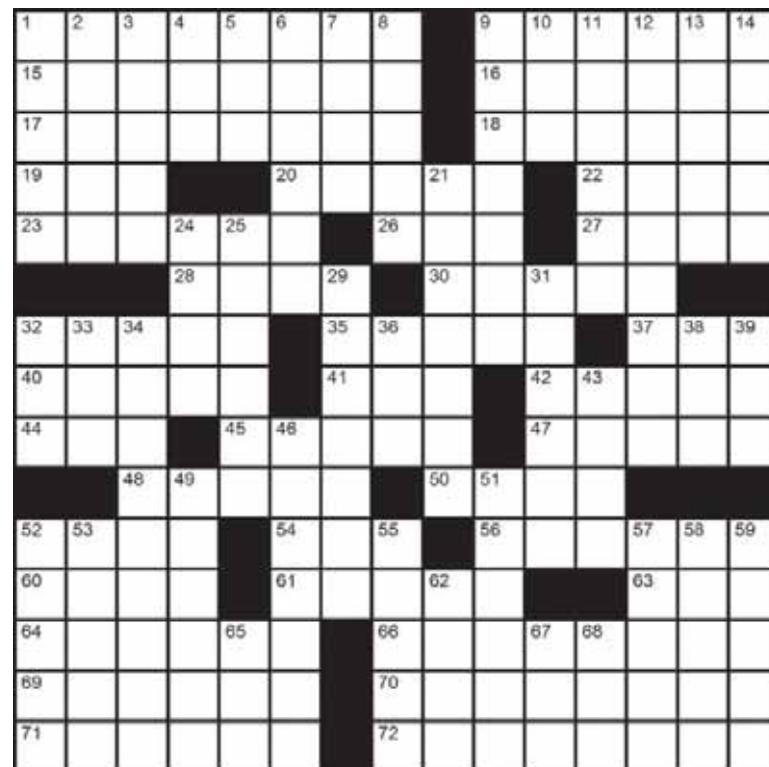
Nutritional information per serving (1 sandwich)

- Calories 345
- Protein 17 g
- Carbohydrates 53 g
- Fibre 4.5 g
- Total fat 8.3 g
- Saturated fat 3.7 g
- Cholesterol 20 mg
- Sodium 560 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



1. April 22nd since 1970: 2 wds.
 9. Hip-Hop label: 2 wds.
 15. South Africa's administrative capital
 16. Like Seth Meyers' show: 2 wds.
 17. Dependable/valiant
 18. Someone doing repo work
 19. Petroleum
 20. Complaints
 22. Russian ruler
 23. Alcoholic drink of Mexico, variably
 26. Six: Italian
 27. Ms. Perry
 28. 'Pseud' suffix
 30. Within the law
 32. Think something is groovy again
 35. Extreme
 37. Sporty bike
 40. Greenland town with an American airbase
 41. __-for-tat
 42. Second 'R' of J.R.R. Tolkien
 44. Tom Clancy subs novel
 45. Tenor, Helmut __
 47. Joy of Cooking author, __-Rombauer
 48. Sweden's money
 50. Whispery word
 52. Mythical Hun king
 54. Canada Revenue Agency's acronym, in French
 56. Hubby's spouse, e.g.: 2 wds.
 60. Believability/reputation, briefly
 61. Hamilton-born actress Ms. Katic
 63. "Am __ next?" (Performer's query)
 64. Delinquent in duty
 66. Spring clothing hue: 2 wds.
 69. "Forward!", in

Florence
 70. Bryan __, Canadian host on HGTV
 71. Overly-feasts
 72. Terminus: 2 wds.
DOWN
 1. __ Downs (Horse racecourse in England)
 2. Bandleader Mr. Shaw
 3. "For __?" (Are you serious?, slang-style)
 4. Sum, shortly
 5. What way?
 6. In a dullsville manner
 7. 'Million' suffix
 8. 'Harry Potter' mov-

ies director David
 9. Personnel record
 10. Mariner's dir.
 11. "My Friend __" (TV Western of the 1950s)
 12. Output for Canadian musician Kirk MacDonald: 2 wds.
 13. Bothered: 2 wds.

— told.
 57. __ Vanilli
 58. Cathedral city in northern France
 59. Hagar the Horrible's dog
 62. Flatbread choice
 65. Canonized Mlle.
 67. "Bingo."
 68. Canuck financial inst.

* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20

Just because someone seems to know what they are talking about does not mean you have to trust them – especially when it is your money that is on the line. Make sure you know the risks involved before signing up to anything today.

Taurus April 21 - May 21

You will have plenty to say for yourself today and as far as some people are concerned you are saying too much. But that's too bad because you have kept your thoughts to yourself long enough – now you intend to make up for lost time.

Gemini May 22 - June 21

Mercury, your ruler, links nicely with both Mars and Pluto today, so chances are you will be assertive in the extreme. Just be careful you don't create confrontations where none need to exist.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
 You have every right to believe what you believe and you must make sure others know that. You must also let them know that you have no intention of changing your viewpoint.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
 People expect you to be bold and brash, so don't let them down. But don't be too enamoured of your own brilliance or you may put them off. If you want to impress important people you need to get the right balance between ambition and humility.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
 You can expect something wonderful to happen today. Most likely news from afar will inspire you to believe that the good days are back at last and it won't be long

before there is even more evidence of that. Start planning your next vacation.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
 You know exactly what you should be doing, even though you might find it hard to explain to others why you are doing it. But don't let it worry you. Partners and loved ones will soon see there is method in your apparent madness.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
 Put others first today and don't worry if, in doing so, you fall behind in your schedule. Mercury in your opposite sign means you can easily persuade work colleagues to help you catch up later on.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
 Like it or not you will have to follow the rules today, because if you deviate from what others think is permissible you could

get yourself in a whole load of trouble.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
 The Sun and Mars are all working in your favour at the moment, so decide what it is you most want to accomplish then go all out to make it happen. Affairs of the heart are also well starred.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
 You will have words with a friend today and those words may have to be harsh. The fact is they have stepped over the line and need to be reminded they have obligations that cannot be ignored.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
 Make sure your opinions are heard over the next 24 hours, because if you don't speak up you could find that matters you have an interest in move in a direction you don't want them to go.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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